Sports
Archers gun for UAAP title today

Entertainment
Michael Moore uncensored

World / A10
British hostage killed

Lifestyle
Ayala Museum reloaded

JOB Market
3 sections with 700 job openings

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Miriam: Money can buy a seat in 'Senate of idiots'

By Tonyo Cruz
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ANGELES CITY—"The Senate of Idiots of the Philippines, 2004," this was said Sen. Miriam Defen-

Palace defends mutineers

Cebu drug bust: ₱1.3B worth of shabu seized

By Joanne B. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau
and Alcuin Papa

POLICE authorities scored a major victory in Cebu province yesterday upon seizing a secret factory for the illegal manufacture of shabu or methamphetamine hydrochloride, in what is believed to be one of the biggest such laboratories in the Philippines, if not in Southeast Asia.

Anti-narcotics agents raided a warehouse that was being used as a shabu laboratory in Barangay Umapad in Mandaue City at 5 p.m. on Friday, seizing 675 kg of the drug worth ₱1.3 billion and arresting 11 persons.

About 20 hours later, the team conducted separate raids on another laboratory and a warehouse in two neighboring Mandaluyong locations yesterday.

The two laboratories and the warehouse were run by the same international drug syndicate, considered the biggest illegal drug operation in the country and possibly in Southeast Asia, according to Philippine National Police Director General Edgar Aglipay and Director Anselmo Avenido, the head of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency.

Authorities were so elated over the haul that President Macapagal-Arroyo cut short her official activities in Albay to fly to Cebu City yesterday to personally congratulate the anti-narcotics unit in charge of the laboratories and the warehouse.

The President has made fighting illegal drugs a priority in her anti-crime campaign and last year set aside a ₱1 billion intelligence fund for it.

Avenido said the raid was conducted in coordination with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and capped a month-long surveillance.

He said there were enough chemicals in what authorities are calling a "superlaboratory" to produce another 7.5 tons of shabu worth ₱15 billion.

Those arrested at the site included three Filipinos, three Chinese, two Malaysians, two Taiwanese and one Briton.

Avenido said his agency had been receiving "persistent reports" of a drug factory in Cebu when Mandaue City it located.

The Mandaue factory was the first shabu laboratory to be raided in the Visayas.

An informant reported to inquire the purchase of chemicals used to make

HAPPINESS: A cone pair of combat boots for Army private Crisanto Balaluin Legazpi City, where President Macapagal-Arroyo distributed 500 pairs during yesterday's visit to the Bicol region. Inset upon was one of his issues valuables the Magdalo group during their takeover of the Oakwood Premiere last year.

But Magdalo lawyer fumes over clients' contrition

By John Leloy Javellana
and Alcuin Papa

THE UNTHINKABLE has happened: Makasalong rushing to defend the leaders of the Magdalo mutineers from slanderers and cynics.

Giving the apology publicly made to President Macapagal-Arroyo on Friday by the six leaders, Peter Sarmiento Ignacio Bunye said yesterday in a statement: "What the young officers did was highly commendable and we have much to learn from them, especially in these times of crisis and incidents.

"It takes courage to admit one's faults and come into the mainstream of the public interest."

In an interview with DZRH radio, Bunye denied that there had been a quid pro quo for the apology, and stressed that the Magdalo leaders had promised not to launch another mutiny.

He said the officers' lawyers were not aware of the decision of their clients to apologize because they had not been consulted. According to the six officers, ... their action was purely voluntary because no one was forced on them before they did not consult their lawyers about the matter. They just discussed this among themselves and they understood the implications of what they were going to do, and did it."

But one of the lawyers, Homobono Adaza, said that he was "told, shocked and angry" and he would file a motion of withdrawal of counsel before the court tomorrow.

"This is a 360-degree turn from their previous stand," he told reporters. "I have been taken for a ride. I thought they were willing to stand for what they believed in and what they saw was happening in this country. I can't understand this, given their stand, their principles and views."

Adaza said the officers' apology was no longer necessary because the coup d'etat case against 299 of the mutineers had been dismissed by a Makati court, and 66 of the remaining 81 soldiers had been granted bail.

"So what's the idea? They only prejudiced themselves and hurt him," he said.

Adaza, together with Rizal Public, is lead counsel of the six officers. At least three other lawyers are collaborating counsel for the 288 ex-soldiers who are still being court martial for the failed mutiny on July 27, 2003.

In a short phone interview, Public said his clients' decision to apologize to Mr.

VIRLANIE'S 'KUYA DOMINIK'

Sharing life with street children

By Vek Contreras

BORN 109 km. brick years to the Philippines, this Frenchman says he feels much older having surrounded by street children the moment in Metro Manila when dealing with troublesome youths down.

As an entrepreneur and an award-winning social worker, Dominique Lemay heads the Virlanie Foundation Inc., one of the country's biggest non-government organizations that looks after abandoned children, armed members and teenage drug users, minors fresh from jail and victims of abuse.

Next month, Lemay and the foundation board members and staff are to be given "royal treatment," a banquet hosted in ... Princess Caroline of Hanover, daughter of the late Prince Grace of Monaco—is coming over to visit the Virlanie facilities in Manila.

Lemay recalled how his work back home often led him into what he said were violent encounters with teenage drug addicts and delinquents "who showed no respect and discipline" after being brought in from the streets for rehabilitation.

When his job took him to Manila in the late '90s, he expected to face the same hostility.

Instead, he said, he has gotten plenty of hugs and kisses as the beloved "Kuya Dominik" in his hundreds of young wards.

Establishing the foundation in 1993, the man made a golden touch for himself raising his elderly-caposito the foundation into a network of 12 caring centers—nine in Makati City two in Manila and one in Bulacan, Batangas.

"Anymore... he children live like animals. It's not their fault that they are in the streets," he told the Inquirer in an interview late last month. Lemay

Girl pleads with NPA to free pa after 3 years

By Margaux C. Ortiz

SERGEANT ROSETE: Three years in NPA captivity

PUERTORI is this daughter's wish for her father, who was abducted by the NPA birthday tomorrow.

Ten inches, Rianne Shaff'ge, Jovenaia Rosete, a captive of the New People's Army "almost made it a point to celebrate his birthday with us," Rosemarie Rosete, 38, told the Inquirer with a sad smile.

She said her father would turn 60 on Sunday. Rosete was captured on Sept. 4, 2001, by the NPA's Sidcom Felarmino Command along with

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2004

WEATHER FORECAST

Alert raised for Filipinos in Iraq

FOLLOWING warnings from her special envoy to Iraq that insurgents there might launch fresh attempts to kidnap Filipino workers, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered officials to step up the alert level for the more than 4,000 Filipinos there and to consider their evacuation if the security situation worsened.

The President told Filipinos in Iraq to be "extraordinarily cautious" because of their busy, and thereby more inviting targets of opportunistic terrorist attacks," her spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

Bunye said the President has approved a "heightened alert status" for Filipinos in Iraq to accommodate the Department of Foreign Affairs and ordered that all measures be mapped up "to keep them out of harm's way."

He said the special ambassador to the Middle East, Roy Cimatu, who heads the foreign affairs department's Iraq section, had warned the Cabinet earlier this week that the "probability of abduction of Filipinos has risen as a result of the current Iraq and other situation in that country."

The Philippines pulled its token humanitarian contingent out of Iraq in July to meet the demand of kidnappers who had abducted truck driver Angelo de la Cruz and threatened to behead him.

The withdrawal incurred wrath of the United States and Australia as well as other members of the coalition that supported the military action against Saddam Hussein.

Cimatu said on Thursday that it was the government's belief that the abductors in hostilities and kidnappings in Iraq over the past week was apparently intended to influence the elections in Australia next month and the United States in November.

Bunye said the foreign and labor departments had been instructed to take more aggressive safety precautions at work sites, institute preventive travel sanctions and instigate the speedy repatriation of those in more danger and to inform the public in which such actions are taken.

He said the OFWs was maximizing a policy of "preventive mass paranoia" so that Filipinos in Iraq could be forewarned and avoid being made targets of attacks.

Jean Interviews with ABS-CBN, Bunye said officials were preparing contingency plans for the worst case scenario, including the evacuation of the Filipinos in Iraq.

"The situation in the Middle East, according to the monitoring of our Middle East team, appeared to be deteriorating even in the week," Bunye said.

The President has not lifted the ban on the deployment of Filipinos here in Iraq despite the appeal of workers who basics unchanging.

The government imposed an Iraq travel ban following the kidnapping of De la Cruz who was subsequently freed.

"That is why we are appealing to our countrymen, especially those who are planning on going to Iraq, that it is a dangerous place at this time. They should think of their safety because if they fall into harm, their families would be affected," Bunye said.

Cimatu said that he was worried about Filipinos who were entering Iraq through the back door. He said they want the—men more vulnerable to abduction. *J. Arcellana, AFP, AFP*

Cops told: Intensify crime war

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Central Bureau

TWO FAMINE lines last in two days as a wave of cell phone thefts—chilling enough news to prompt an appeal from Malacañang for the police to stop the menace.

The victims were both members of media—Jose Luis Villanueva, assistant business editor of the Today newspaper, and Christopher Morales, television station of DMA-6 Radio. Both were 26.

Other than some an appeal to the police yesterday to curb street crimes, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye did not say what other actions, if any, Malacañang was taking.

"Well, our authorities should intensify their campaign against street crimes," Bunye said in reply to a question on ABS radio.

"They should concentrate not only on organized crime and the fight against terrorism but ordinary street crimes because these are what our people see and hear about every day," Bunye said.

But he said the police alone could not deal with street crime.

"What is important is that we should all help in fighting this menace and we are hoping the civilian population will also help our police force to combat these ordinary street crimes," Bunye said.

Father's grief

Villanueva was stabbed in a fashionable area on Friday after he refused to give up his cell phone to holdup men. He was on his way home after a late-night coverage in Makati City.

Morales, a co-anchor on the Kasada news program, died at about 1:30 a.m. yesterday, two days after he was shot and robbed of his cellular phone and money. The bullet slammed his internal organs.

"Look at what they did to my first born. Please tell the people what they did to him!"—these were the words uttered by former Silliman University president Hercyn Maquiso to GMA-6 Radio news director Gertrude Charlotte Tan-Asuncion as he bid goodbye to his son as the newscaster was inside the Veils Sources Hospital. With a report from Alec G. Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau

Traders question effects of deficit on liberal trade

MAGSO CITY—The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc. wants President Macapagal-Arroyo to assess how the country's budget deficit would affect the country's commitments to the World Trade Organization to liberalize trade.

"Does tariffs on major imported products may be a substantial drain on the debt-plagued government, but we all know we must 'bite the bullet,' said Ambassador Jovito del Ros, the presidential envoy for international trade relations.

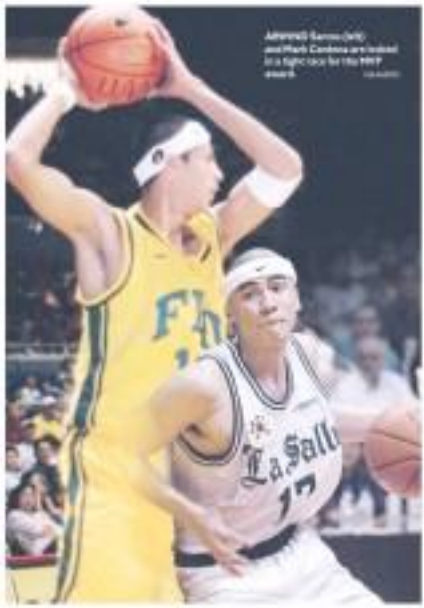
Del noted that previous tariff reductions pulled down import contributions to the gross domestic product from 17 percent to 13 percent.

Businessman Jaime Ayala said that the government will need to open the country to global trade soon or lose any market advantage within Asia in the next five years.

Del said opening up the Philippine market to China and the world is the only option available "to stride up" and widen opportunities to earn and plug the budget deficit.

Noemi Sabala, PCCI president, disclosed before the 18th Pearl Luzon Area Business Conference on Friday that Malacañang was ready to sign with China the early harvest program (EHP) in January next year, which will open the country to relatively cheaper products.

Sabala said the country must be able to take advantage of the markets this would open. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday SPORTS

Editor Teddyric S. Melendrez

Archers set sights on sweep of Tams

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT HAS BEEN four years since the La Salle Archers swept the UAAP Finals series. A feat they completed against the Far Eastern Tamaraws.

The Archers want a repeat of that season when they gun for their seventh crown today against the Tamaraws in Game 2 of the senior basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

"I'm hoping (for a sweep). Our win is going to be nothing if we lose on Sunday. So might as well go for it," said coach Franz Pumaren, who steered the Archers to their title run from 1999-2000.

"But we don't underestimate FEU. Even if we won Game 1, with their experience, they are capable of coming back. There's no reason for us to relax or relax. We have a tough task ahead. But sure it's going to be sour," added Pumaren.

It's certainly an uncommon experience now that the defending champions face a do-or-die predicament. "They have the momentum but I have my veterans saying that it will be a different FEU Tamaraws on Sunday. We are, that's confidence and they know best men," said coach Kie Dakay.

Game time is at 4 p.m., right after the Ateneo Eagles battle the University of Sto. Tomas Tiger Cubs in Game 2 of the Junior Finals. Defending champion Ateneo aims for a sweep after thrashing UST, 83-51, in Game 1 last Thursday.

The league's top individual performers will also be honored today.

While FEU's Aveneil Santos is apparently favored to win the Most Valuable Player award, Mac Cardona showed he's a better leader by La Salle's 2-0 victory last Thursday.

The Tamaraws were then favored to win but Ryan Arana also proved to be the surprise performer for a game-high 16 points. The sophomore guard almost got suspended today after picking up his third conference technical foul.

He got a reprieve after the UAAP technical committee reviewed the game and noted that it was a proper call but Arana had "no intention to harm" FEU's Dennis Miranda.

It was good news for the Archers, who also have history in their favor. Since 1998, seven out of the 13 teams which won Game 1 in the best-of-three Finals went on to win the championship. Five of those seven swept the series.

Santos and Cardona: Deserving MVP either way

By Francis Ochoa

YEARS from now, people will talk about the way this season's UAAP MVP award race so closely contested and contentious the persons who eventually walked away with the plum. But on the eve of the coronation, there are actually two players... for viewers it's Aveneil Santos and La Salle's Mark Cardona...lured from different backgrounds who will mark this day as a defining moment in their lives.

It is a moment they rerouted to last year, when they went neck and neck for the MVP trophy only to lose the heartbreaker to University of the East gunner James Yap. The incident was particularly crushing for Cardona, the more cocky purportedly crowding Archer hatchet who topped the statistical race only to find himself excluded from even the shortlist for selection.

"Sumobra talaga yung nangyari kay, kasi sa dami ng confident talaga ako last year," said the 6-foot-1 swingman, who earns the most awkward-looking free throw for baby hooks in the local basketball scene.

This year, there will be no left-field winners for the award. Everything boils down to Santos and Cardona. Two players shaped by basketball courts from different halves of the globe and tested competitive nets are, ironically, the ones who become the capital of varsity hoops in the country.

Santos has the inside track on the award. Shoots leading out of the UAAP board room have the Pompanga eager winning the trophy, despite a campaign headed by those after a modestly liberal statement that offended members of the sports media.

"Alam ko naman mali ang sinabi ko. (I know what I said was wrong)," said the 6-foot-3 Santos, who was overheard saying he didn't need bulky limbs the press to win the MVP award. "Pero masisisi ako sa labas ng nakakalito ito, pinaghirapan ko. Tina-brag naman ang mga kalaro (I just got used to the fact that I worked hard for everything I earned. That's the only thing I meant.)."

Indeed, it is hard to fault Santos. When his father died three years ago, he found himself reluctantly thrust into the role of breadwinner for his family. His 42-year-old mother was a housewife with little means to support a brood of four. And against that backdrop, a lean, mean basketball machine bloomed to fill and now stands at the threshold of a lucrative professional career.

Cardona is the decided underdog in this heated contest. While all Santos has to do to pick his spots in a melee clothed with talented players, the La Salle mainman has had to climb hurdle, dive and do practically everything to lead the young

SANTOS, A4

Lim, Eala join hands to snare ABC hosting

By Jane Navarro

LIM

EALA

THE BASKETBALL federation of the Philippines and the Philippine Basketball Association will join their resources to secure the hosting of the 2005 ABC championships.

The news about following the meeting between BAP secretary general Graham Lim and PBA commissioner Noli Eala the other day.

"Our common interest is to earn a spot to the Olympic Games through the ABC qualifying tournament," said Lim, who promised to consult all ABC officials on the country's hosting intention within the week.

The top two teams in the ABC automatically gain slots either to the World Championships or the Olympic Games. The 2005 ABC has two spots reserved for Asian countries to the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"This is probably the best opportunity for the country to play again in the Olympics. We should try and look for ways to bring Philippine basketball back to the world map," said Eala.

The PBA will draft a proposal on the long-term objectives of its partnership with the BAP, which will be presented when Eala and Lim meet again anytime this week.

"As much as possible we want to have a long and lasting relationship with the PBA. If we join hands together, it will not only benefit the national team but the whole country as well," Lim told the business.

The BAP and the PBA could begin their partnership in the 2005 edition of the ABC in Qatar, which offers two spots in the 2006 World Championships in Saitama, Japan.

Lim said the ABC edition usually held during the months of July-September, the two-the schedule of the PBA allow the pro league allowed to reschedule to a fiscal year (October-June) starting this season.

Lim, however, suggested that only five or six PBA players should play in the Asian Games so as not to impede the operations of the pro league while the PBA season is ongoing.

The BAP had entered into a deal with Cebuana Lhuillier to form a national team up to 2006, when the next calendar of the PBA will clash with the schedule of the 2006 Asiad in Doha, Qatar.

"It's about time we bring back the ABC to the country. With the PBA, we can form a strong team and make it happen," said Lim.

The country last hosted the meet's ABC in 1973, a year after the RP dribblers made their last Olympic appearance in Munich.

Nowhere man closes in on Singh

PUMPED UP
Rhythmic Jr. Cruz blows his muscles for the crowd during his weigh-in Friday in preparation for his IBF light welterweight fight Saturday against Glen Johnson. AP

Local teams rule URBL's first games

DAVIS CUP SEMIS

Roddick serves up US lead

ANDY Roddick whips up a record serve en route to beating the United States no. 1 Schalken 7-6, 6-4, 6-4 yesterday vs Belarus. AP

NEW YORK—The United States won both of its opening singles to move within a victory of its first appearance in the Davis Cup final since 1997, while Spain scrambled Friday in trying to reach its third trip to the championship in five years.

Andy Roddick won in straight sets and Mardy Fish took only a little longer to give the Americans a 2-0 lead over Belarus, the host of Saturday's doubles contest.

Fish by the 4[H] upset No. 6 Carlos Moya to put France ahead of Spain, 1-0, on the first day of the semifinals in teams' previous team competition.

In Charleston, South Carolina, Roddick got the United States out to a fast start, powering a record 248 kph (155 mph) serve in his 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 win over Vladimir Voltchkov while Fish crumbled for the lead after a 7-5, 6-2, 3-6, 6-0 victory over Max Mirnyi.

In Alicante, Spain, Mathieu dazzled Moya, 6-3, 3-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-3, to put France ahead, and 12th-ranked Juan Carlos Ferrero tried to rally Spain, leading Nebojsa Jankovic, 6-3, 6-3, 1-6, 7-5, before darkness suspended the rest of the match until Saturday.

The winners of the weekend semifinals will move Dec. 3-5 to the championship tie.

The United States has won the most Davis Cup titles, 31, but none since 1995.

Besides the semifinals, eight playoff matches were determining the final half of next year's 9[H]-[illegible] group.

Australia, Chile, Croatia, Romania, the Czech Republic and Russia all took 2-0 leads after the opening day while Slovakia and Germany split their opening matches and Austria and Britain were tied at one.

In Charleston, Roddick's serve in the final game of the match eclipsed his own record of 246 kph (153 mph) set at the Queen's Club tournament in England in June. Even with the record speed, Voltchkov managed to get his racket on the ball but was unable to return it.

The crowd at the Family Circle Tennis Center stood and cheered when the record speed of the serve was shown.

"I hit a good one. That's about it," Roddick said. "I think it has hit the limit. To me it's still a point. It's something I'll be able to tell people about one day. But I'm happier with the win—serving well overall."

In Alicante, Mathieu needed 4 1/2 hours for his first victory in Davis Cup to give France the lead. The first match went back-and-forth. Mathieu won the final three games of the first set and broke Moya to open the second. Moya then took control to win the second and third sets, but continued several unforced errors to let Mathieu stay close.

Mathieu opened the fourth by breaking Moya's serves, and again in the sixth to move 5-1 ahead. After he broke Mathieu to lead 2-0 in the final set and had four game point to take a 3-0 lead, but Mathieu rallied, earning four break points before finally converting and going on to win five of the next six games.

"The opponent plays well, too," Moya said. "And I think he played a great game. ... It was a match of ups and downs and in the end I was a little tired."

In Perth, Australia, Clayton Hewitt broke a 36-year-old Australian Davis Cup record, helping the home side to a 2-0 lead over an injury-depleted Belarus.

Hewitt's 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 win over Mikhail Youzhny on grass at Royal Kings Park was his 25th Davis Cup singles win, breaking Arthur Quist's Australian record in just his ninth year of Davis Cup play.

Wayne Arthurs, playing in his first opening singles match in more than two years, coiled past Andrei Karatchko the final table 6-7 (6), 6-4, 6-2 sets way Hewitt II later.

In Ribeira, Croatia, Olympic doubles bronze medalists Ivan Ljubicic and Mario Ancic won in straight sets to give Croatia a 2-0 lead over Belgium.

AP

US Open champ ousts Maria

BEIJING—US Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova beat tempered and #Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova, 6-2, 6-2, for a place in the final of the $565,000 China Open. WTA tournament on Sat today.

The second seed found her groove half-way through the first set and broke Sharapova's serve five times.

"My serve helped me a lot today. I've been serving well and returning well. the idea to win easy points and I didn't want to give them to her," Kuznetsova, 19, said.

Kuznetsova will meet either Amelie Mauresmo or Elena Dementieva in the 2 p.m. semifinal on Sat. on Sunday.

Third seed Sharapova, 17, came on strongly, mounting three winners in the first three points and breaking Kuznetsova in the first game.

"I was so frustrated at the start because it was so windy I couldn't put the ball to the lines," Kuznetsova said.

But she calmed things around with an ace to win the third game after saving two break points. Kuznetsova then broke Sharapova three times to win the set.

Sharapova's serve turned distinctly rocky and Kuznetsova took two more breaks in the second set, including in the last game when her opponent capitalized with a double fault to match point.

"She was not today and she was the better player. I won't really there," Sharapova said. Reuters

SHAMPOO: Another painful nick AP

DLSZ bags last semis slot

DE LA Salle Zobel bagged yesterday the fourth and last semifinal ticket of the NCAA 80th season as tigers volleyball by edging last year's champion Siena College of Quezon City, 25-18, 25-15, at the EAC gym.

DLSZ will have to beat elimination topscorer and best setter Bob Bolick College Ateneo in the semis which begins Oct. 9.

Mapua College has the twice-to-beat advantage over St. Scholastica's College in the other semis pairing.

In Junior matches, St. Scholastica conducted University of the Assumption-Pampanga, 25-18, 25-22, 24-26, 25-17, to brighten its chances of joining Mapua and Xhiral Technological University in the final four.

St. Scholastica ended Chi-chiro at 6-4 and dashed the semifinal hopes of 0-6-2 Chiang Kai Shek College and EGDC.

BARRICHELLO: 12th career pole AP

Rubens takes pole of new Chinese GP

SHANGHAI, China—Ferrari's Rubens Barrichello gained the first-ever pole position for the Chinese Grand Prix on Saturday after Ferrari teammate Michael Schumacher spun out seconds later to his qualifying lap.

It was the 12th career pole and second straight for Barrichello, the new has three for the season. The US, Italian and Chinese races.

Barrichello recorded a time of 1 minute, 34.812 seconds on the brand-new 5.451 kilometer (3.2886 mile) Shanghai International Circuit.

Schumacher spun on the first turn of the new track after leading the pre-qualifying an hour earlier in 1:33.185. He will start in the second to last row in Sunday's 56-lap race in 14th place.

It will be the German's worst starting position in a Grand Prix driven. In 1999 he had his pole position for the final race of the season, the Japanese GP, but stalled on the grid and was put to the back of the push.

In 1995, as a Benetton driver, he was 16th on the grid but went on to win the Belgian Grand Prix.

Midway through the first turn, Schumacher lost control of his Ferrari and spun off the track into the wide-gravel area. He went back on the track and completed the lap but failed to record a time. AP

Santos and Cardona . . .

From page A3

Archers this he. And while Santos can marry an audience with an easy grin and laid-back personality, Cardona has as much charm as a brick.

Although earning on the loudmouth and the trash-talking style common to players around an American playground basketball, the Archers' top gunner still has that aura of confidence often mistaken as cockiness.

"Almost like [my] confidence is confidence in myself," he said. "I'm just really confident with myself," he explained.

It was that same confidence that was broken last year, and he hopes to fully repair it this year.

"Sportingly, my records take my MVP [among Archers' top backfield] for [sophomore] season or versus [my confidence] by," said Cardona. Despite his status as a Fil-Am player in a school perceived to be ethnic, Cardona has as much fight to talk about hardships as the dusky Santos. After a stint at Carson High in California, Cardona had pretty much emigrated himself to doing cashier work in a Jack-in-a-Box outlet before an invitation to try out for La Salle's team came.

"Every pr here he indoge ang La Salle. The school gave me a second chance and I'll do anything to repay La Salle for that," he said, stating that a championship would be just compensation.

But the MVP trophy will be in the back of his mind as it will be on Santos. And in a close race for that honor, there's how close the MVP race has been. Besides, in Filipino, said. "The only reason the race is close is because there can be only one winner. If there could be two, I know I would be deserving and [Santos] Cardona] would also be deserving."

Whoever the winner ultimately is, he will be remembered for years to come in varsity lore. But the one who loses won't be easily forgotten either.

Spring Cooking Oil stays in contention

SPRING Cooking Oil Laguna limited Bristol's fastbreak bent, 110-85, Friday to keep alive its hopes of making the semifinals in the 4th Shell Invitational basketball tournament at the indoor stadium in Bocaue, Bulacan.

Alo-Ano six guard Keith Friel sweetened 34 points, including nine of 13 from the 3-point arc, to spark the Cooking Oil Masters of Nathaniel "Tec" Padilla and Lapsley Eric Trevista "Dingaling" Lazaro to stave their way to four games.

"The boys proved it on front the wire. They're determined to make it to the next round," said delegation head and RBC (National Basketball Conference) secretary general Tito Nebrija.

Spring Laguna has a tough schedule ahead, though. It has to battle Rexxie's Foodservit Raiders and Parchards in its last two games to stay in contention.

The Cooking Oil Masters surged to a commanding 77-39 lead at halftime and never looked back.

Bobbi Manuel, Ritani Spiridakis and Mar Reyes adds supported Friel with 18, 13 and 14 points, respectively. Ka-pes Christian Bichay also sparkled with six points and 11 rebounds.

Carlo Saporito led Bristol with 20 points while Salmond Tan added 16.

Red Bull Barako and the Bolts pass the tourney with four straight victories. Chinese Taipei's Hsu Lee Twigers have a 3-1 card, followed by the Shanghai Sharks (3-2), Spring (1-3), Pureblends (0-4) and Bronzi (3-1).

Spring Laguna dropped a heart-breaking 80-83 decision to the Shanghai Sharks Thursday after leading by eight going into the final quarter.

Cardinals try to turn NBC fortune around

TODAY'S GAME
Lim Ah Pond and Convention Center
9 a.m. — Negros Selanga

LIM, URTS—The Negros Cardinals try to turn their fortune around starting today when they play the Batangas 29ers in a North division playoff match in the NBC (National Basketball Conference) national championship at the Ah Pond & Convention Center here.

The Cardinals, who lost their last four bouts due to injury and Ajino Asefrea, who died in a motorbike accident in Baguio, need to win twice to earn a shot at NBC's Howard Taping, the No. 2 team in the North group.

The Cardinals of Ah pond draw Ben Bautista and the Silvers of Melvin Mayor Tito Reyes, Rep. Oscar Gozos and businessman Ronnie Marasan clash at 6 p.m. If the Cards pull through, they meet some at 4 p.m. tomorrow.

The Cardinals had beaten the 29ers twice in the eliminations of the tourney sponsored by Nestomix, Spring Cooking Oil, PCSO, Bulpinio Lines, Rexxie's Spring Mineral Water, Cebu Bottle, Air Philippines, Supercat, Mega Wholesale, Metal and Mother.

But coach Ring Garcia's 29ers are determined to finish off the Cards today despite missing two of his key players—Jay Lapitan, who is injured, and Ignan Gerna, who left for the United States.

In their absence, Garcia will hook on Sonny Manzano, replacement scorer Lito Sapio and Ronald Ba. Cruz.

"They're big but we're not afraid," said Bapois Boone Nap-Garcia.

Garcia is gunning his hopes on Ibrhim Pantandla, Edbert Tan, Jan Salazes and ex-PCU Dolphin Joseph Reapes.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL: Ms. Thorsen de la Rosa of the Philippine Air Force spikes the ball against Michelle Laborte of the Philippine Navy during the shirting of the Porras Ladies Beach Volleyball at the Cubao Bay Metropolitan Authority sandcourts. The Lardon of Laborte and Cecile Tabuena won.

Hawks cap perfect run with crown

By Mari Anthony Reyes

FOUR straight riders. Seventy four straight wins. One perfect season.

University of Manila (MU) strong-arm Jason Hawkins to second collegiate basketball history more day demolishing Centro Escolar University with one finishing kick, 70-48, in Game 2 of their National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Nacsac) championship series at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The season's MVP Joel Cortes scored seven of his game high 27 points in the fourth quarter, most of them in a deserving 9-0 blitz that finally took the wings out of the Dons' pleas and gave the Hawks the 19-game sweep for this year's crown.

Tolentino also rounded himself to glory by coaching EM to the Nacsac title three days after leading Philippine Christian University to its first ever NCAA championships.

"I can't describe how I feel right now," said Tolentino, who also helped UM into three intercollegiate titles during the years. "It looked like I can't do anything wrong. This is a perfect season for me and my team."

The personality hold true for the Hawks who never lost a game in 74 outings they had since the league started in 2001, which is in itself an unprecedented feat in collegiate basketball.

"We didn't have any special formula, we just try to develop a team-plan every time the found ourselves that we have," said UM president and owner Dennis delos Santos.

In the first game, Pennsylvania-Jay conquered my Sonny salvaged third place after downing host St. Clare College of Calamba, 83-62.

Nacsac president Dr. Ernest Jay Adalem of JCC awarded Tolentino the MVP trophy. Others in the mythical five are Jhon Regalado of UM, Jhon Macaraeg of CEC, Raymond Tayamora also of JCC and Boyd Sison of PAC.

Macaraeg was named Rookie of the Year, Conor Bermudez King of the Boards (11.33 per game) and Marlon Magnaye King of Assists (5. 12 per game).

The Scores:

Second game:

UM 70—Cortes 27, Alquiros 11, Santiago 9, Dalusong 8, Bermudez 4, Sanchez 2, Lopez 1, Garcia 1, Ignacio 0.

CEU 48—Macaraeg 14, Gomez 8, Dalida 8, Cardenal 5, Lorenzo 5, Mendoza 4, Tolentino 3, Ilao 0, Gabriel 0, Ramirez 0.

Quarters: 19-12, 28-28, 49-42, 70-48.

Lapid to give OPBF championship belt

SEN. Lito Lapid will award the championship belt to the winner of the Oct. 23 OPBF showdown between reigning titlist Brady Baico and Brandon Serby at the Lapu-Lapu Sports Complex.

The was revealed yesterday by promoters Ron "Skipper" Salud, who witnessed the "WBF Showdown" card held last night at the Manila Ballroom in Sucat, Parañaque.

"It's all systems go. Senator Lapid will be coming in join Cebuanos in that big sporting event," said Salud, who'll be attending the WBC convention in Thailand (Oct. 3-9) and Ukraine (Oct. 12-17).

Salud said Cebu Hero Gun Gang Sanchez will do the honors of awarding the championship trophy to the winner of the fistic. Andy Sarabia.

Dubbed "The Enthralled Bantamweight" the said features Baico's title defense after defeating a controversial split decision loss at the hands of South Africa's Mzonke Sana in a WBC eliminator last May 2004 South Africa. Baico won Sana on his camera meter and almost put the fight away in the fifth round.

Baico carries an impressive 21-win, 1-loss, 14 KOs record and remains the WBC's No. 2 contender, as mandated by WBC president Jose Sulaiman, despite that loss.

The main supporting bout has Jerie BO'Bo, 3 points light weight beater Delada against a soon to be named foe.

Also seeing action is Rolando Gervacques, who will take on Jonathan Rosales of Davao, and Gilbert De la Torre, who'll be fighting Ricardo Alba.

Sabee Lagumbay, Contributor

GDAP to confer Rosales an achievement award

IN RECOGNITION of his outstanding exploits in the LPGA Tour, Jenny Rosales will be presented with a special achievement award by the Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines (GDAP) when it stages the annual Philippine International Golf Show at the SM Megamall Golf next week.

Besides, now among the top stars of the LPGA since winning her first title at the Chick-fil-A tournament last April, has been invited to receive her award if her tight schedule at the LPGA permits, according to GDAP president Cerelal Raymundo.

The awards ceremony will highlight the opening of the three-day Golf Show on Friday Oct. 8. Three Angeli aces who won titles in the United States recently—JC Gonzales, Miguel Tabuena and Cecile Ildefon—will also be honored as Personalities of the Year.

Raymundo said they are also exploring the possibility of putting on display at the exhibit hall the trophy won by Rosales.

Exhibit chair Lorell Cupin, meanwhile, said that everything is set for the show sponsored by Cutler Hammer, Titleist and Premier Wine with at least a hundred booths showcasing the latest in equipment and apparel in golf-related businesses.

Montage Interiors is the official organization provider with the Philippine Turfgrass Association as cooperator.

Meanwhile, an invitational tourney admit to the Golf Show tomorrow at the Manila Golf Club. Tee-off is 9:30 a.m. Taylor Made, Nike, Callaway, Mizuno and Wilson are hole-in-one sponsors.

ROSALES

Amateur Tour golfest resumes at Malarayat

AFTER a two-leg outing down south, the course-hopping Samsung Amateur Tour circuit moves to Luzon tomorrow with the 54th leg at the well-manicured Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club in Lipa, Batangas.

The maximum 144-player field was breached early and organizers are now looking at a final roster of at least 160 players for the venture serving as fifth leg of the tournament's circuit culminating in the grand finale in January next year.

The 72-hole championship division battle backs off hostilities with a minimum of four handicapper from Cambebang, Royal Northwoods and host Mt. Malarayat entered.

Samsung Electronics Phils. is the chief backer of the event. The other sponsors are Tokyo Tokyo, Commodore Philippine Airlines, adidas Taylor Made, KJC by Custom Clubmakers, Pink Polo Bonsoy, Coppertone Spree, and Bagin-X. Killer flex, Lion 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT and 100.5 K-Lite are media partners.

They will all try to join early qualifiers Raymund Bengil (Ilo. Ilocos), Kris Cheng (Bul. Obando-side), Jessie Pagaraan (Pacific de Orro) and Jay Ramos (Apo) who topped the first four stops.

On the last two days of the event, the 36-hole competitions in the men's and ladies' division will be held side by side with the best two rounds of the championship flight.

A featuring television and a DVD player plus trophies are at stake for the top five finishers in each division including men's Class A, Class B, Class C and Class D and ladies Class A, Class B and Class C.

Applications are due to tee-off-off during the awarding ceremony on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the organizing Professional Sports Management Group announced yesterday that the Negros leg has been moved to Oct. 15-16 from its original schedule of Oct. 12-13.

For inquiries, call the PSMG office at 635-3808.

EMBARRASSED
BAD
BREATH?

LIFETIME BUSINESS!

Ad world's 'Lions' coming to Manila

By Edwin R. Mañalac

LIONS are coming to Manila.

Tomorrow "Lions" or the winning entries from the 51st Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival, the hottest and most prestigious advertising awards show in the world, will be shown for the first time in Manila.

The exhibit titled "Cannes Lions in Manila" will showcase the world's best in TV spots, outdoor and direct marketing ads from more than 200 local and global brands which competed last June in Cannes, France.

Brought to Manila for the first time by the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the country's official Cannes festival representative, and the advertising board of the Philippines, the exhibit will run from Sept. 27 to Oct. 1 at Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati City.

"This will open our eyes to what other countries are doing to promote their brands and effectively communicate with their people worldwi. Its changing media landscape. Hopefully, we can learn and take in our own industry to the advertising industry," said lonely Ocampo-Fernandez, Inquirer president and CEO.

The opening ceremonies and exhibit will be hosted by ABS-CBN broadcasters Gay Ilustre and Pinky Webb, with Ambassador James Antonio Tobert du Ayala as guest speaker.

The event will also feature dialogues with agencies and advertisers on how to use international advertising awards and the value of world-class creativity in businesses and brands.

Of the 18,700 entries submitted to Cannes this year, only 95 were awarded Lions. Of the 77 entries from the Philippines, only six made it to the finals.

How important are international awards competitions such as the Cannes Lions?

The Oscars of advertising

"Cannes is the Oscars of advertising and the one stage where the world's brands compete. To win here means to be among the world's best," said Raoul Cancera, VP and executive creative director of Lowe Manila.

"Many believe that awards do nothing for building volumes and sales; however, awards increase a brand's asset value, the long-term and less tangible value of a brand," she, according to Glenda Villar, McCann Erickson's vice president for strategic planning.

More than 100 clients were represented on this year's Cannes International Advertising Festival, with De Beers' delightful campaign from top advertisers Proximo & Gamble with 64 executives and Mr. Donald's with 40.

While Cannes is the Mecca to creative or for building trends, however, there were one-on-one client-driven events went to Cannes—to learn and gain exposure to new ideas, advertising innovations and cost-effective media alternatives. One client would bring half of his brands.

"The ad spend wasn't 'smart spending' by ad terms was evident this year, which saw an upsurge in creative through in print, outdoor and internet ad entries worldwide. The need to cut down the ad clutter and to connect with consumers in all levels lead competitive advertisers to embrace their media mix and explore how non-traditional media solutions.

In Cannes, clients not only gained exposure to advertising trends in their respective countries but also exposure to world-class standards against which they could benchmark their own initiatives.

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AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL ELECTIONS 2004

The Australian Prime Minister announced on Sunday 29 August 2004 that the federal election will take place on Saturday 9 October 2004. For more information please visit the Australian Electoral Commission website, www.aec.gov.au/elections/2004/overseas/index.htm and the smartraveller website, www.smartraveller.gov.au for the latest travel bulletin for the Australian Federal Election 2004.

The Australian Embassy will be opened for pre-poll voting during the hours of 0830-1630 Monday to Friday from 27 September 2004 through 08 October 2004. The Embassy is located at 23rd Floor of the BOM Plaza Tower 2 Ayala Avenue cor. Semedor Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Corrections

THE CAPTION on Page 21 of yesterday's issue reported Rep. Crispin Beltran's party list group. It should be Anakpawis, not Akbayan.

ON THE front page of the Aug. 19 issue, the caption of Carl Medjebi photo is entitled the hottest whole 10 feet. Bonjelo blockbuster and allied haven landed in the Philippines on Jan. 9, 1945. The historic photo shows blockbuster and bomb crews strolling ashore in Lingayen, Pangasinan—and Red Beach, Hilo, Leyte.

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Alcantara, Largo rule Asian 14-under tennis

MOBILE Mikel Dalisay shows the form that powered her to the women's singles championship yesterday.

FRANCIS Casey Alcantara completed his march to fame and glory yesterday.

The Malaybalay, Bukidnon, 15-year-old ranked 61st internationally blew Hina Gil-anja of Cebu City 6-1, 6-2, and captured the boys' singles title in the Philippine Amateur Tennis Federation (PATF) 14-Under Series at the Tinago Swim Club and Sports Center in Pasig City.

Alcantara's feat was matched by another unranked player, Neville Nikki Zobia of Lucena City. The 13-year-old Cebuana beat third-seed Anna Maria Aga, 6-3, 6-2, in their one-hour final.

Zobia then teamed up with Christine Anne Bermosa to run second seeds Thiraphatsakorn Hoshiu and Sirithanida Chaliapitra of Malaysia, 6-4, 6-3, for the doubles crown.

Top seeds Pablo Oliveros II and 11-year-old Justin Sean Largo, the local doubles title titlist second only Kim Tho Tan and Bo Zin of Myanmar, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4.

Meanwhile, the qualifying for the second Reverend Eddie Fenares Foundation International Juniors Championships, a tournament for players 18 years and under, will be held today and tomorrow. The main draws will start on Monday.

RP Young Men's vying in Iran tilt

TEHRAN3

THE PHILIPPINE National Young Men's basketball team will compete in the 4th Hoa Asia Championship for Young Men slated in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, from Sept. 29 to Oct. 8.

National summer Joe Lipa will be assisted at the bench by Jhonnie Lim of Philippine Institute of Technology, Kenrie Villegas, Ricky Sandoz, Bernardo Perez, Alfredo Amanilo and Jose Silva.

The team will leave on Tuesday with delegation head Erwin C. Lim, secretary general of the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

Members of the team are Jonathan Angel S. Fechero, Rhoel Anthony J. Anselmo, Kim Joseph C. Bautmanis, Lyme Al-fred Ramiro from Ateneo University, Jacky del Rosario and Kevin Charles de la Pena from Mapua, Roy Francis Escovera from Jaclum College, Edwin Antonio Gallinger, Roberto Amores and Jonathan Jose Bernardo from the National University, Paul T. Chua from De La Salle University, Jonathan Cosiquien from Cebu City and Regie Ramiran from Davao province.

The team is being supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Rep. Del Ordal, Federal Express, San Miguel Corp., Hardwoods, Coca-Cola, PBA Board of Governors, ICTSI, Mac Emulsifier, Accel outdoors, MPM Corp., Club 65, Arthur Ty and Christine Ong.

The Philippines is bracketed in Group C with China, Jordan and Malaysia.

In Group A are Qatar, Bahrain, Islamic Republic of Iran and Hong Kong-China while in Group B are South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan and Lebanon.

Japan is in Group D with India, Chinese Taipei and Iraq.

Dacera, Pondoc deliver for RP

KOTA KINABALU, Malaysia—Hidilyn Diaz-ta and Mirael Rosales sparkled for the Philippines in the 4th ISSF Girls' Olympic, Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines Junior Crossfit Friendship as the Kota Sports Complex here.

The 13-year-old Dacera won the gold in both the meet's 200- and 400-meter freestyle event to make up for the loss of his teammate at the hands of the Malaysian swimmers, led by Ainsworth with 16 golds.

Rosales also bagged her gold medals in the 100- and 200-m backstroke.

Trackers Sharon Bolisay, Eduardo Nonito, Roy Onor and Robert Bing Adviso topped their respective events and tilted the country's gold medal haul to nine, good for third place overall.

The Filipinos also accounted for 10 silver and 11 bronzes in the four-nation meet.

Nolasco, 18, from the University of Mindanao in Davao del Sur clinched the gold in women's javelin with a heave of 46.01 meters while Bolisay, a 19-year-old Physical Education major at the Holy Cross Davao College, churned 11.62 m for the gold in men's shot put.

Xavier, Ateneo clinched in at 6:00.00 to clinch the gold in the 1,500-m run while King, another product of the University of Mindanao, won the long jump behind a 6.99-m effort.

UE bets notch easy Del Monte victories

UNIVERSITY of the East bets doldumbing Immaculate and Redd Retters notched easy victories yesterday to reach the men's singles round-of-16 in the Del Monte 2XS Cup Wild Philippine Collegiate Badminton Open at The Zone in Mahogany, Makati.

Unnamed Abdulbillad TIPs Manjil de Asis, 11-3, 11-1, in advance against FEU's Jessan Dimitio, 11-5, 11-5 retreat over Zubair Matthews.

Jordan, as the tallest hand, served a 13-2, 11-1 victory over PEARL Frederick Superrank in advance against MERIT Ronald Anino, who lost Leonard Alson Gonzales, 11-3, 11-1.

Other winners were UE's Jeremiah Selga, Atlantson's Bernel Magdaleno, Rizal Wagdalena and Dennis de Jesus, La Salle's Rudel Llanera and Jerald Angeles, MU-TIP's Alfredo Angeles and Raymund Vega, FEU Pilhan Pena, Stopersah's Hendra Tan, ICP's Marlon Gonzaga and TIP's Edmon Ilevana.

In the ladies singles, UE's Jeanelle Kagalingan downed St. Silvestrebel's Jennylyn Mendoza, 11-9, 11-8, and Lyramie's Mary Barredo dubbed as TIP's Rachelle Villareal, 11-2, 11-2, to earn second round berths.

Also advancing were UE's Kathleen Anasco and Rose Ann dela Cruz, La Salle's Michelle Gonzales and Thorine Chan, FEU's Mary-Ann Arlina and Cristelle Sandoval, CIS's Jane de Jesus, UE's Lika Sarmiento, Ateneo Rizal's Jolynne Abdil and Rachelle Ubaldo, Ateneo's Julie Anne Zamora, JRU's Geneveve dela Cruz and WCC's Adeline Pedro.

In the men's doubles, FEU's Jessan Dimitio and Wilmer Tran outplayed La Salle's Matthew Bustamante and Ricky Cayabo, 15-11, 15-7, and UE's Ki-Yon and Edson Gumpio downed UP's Allan Carl Cardenas and Marvin Raul Castrodes, 15-7, 15-13, to enter the quarterfinals.

Other winners were La Salle's Rhed Angeles and Michael Pacheco, TIP's Richard Delano and Edison Ilevana, UP's Marvin Cardeo and Dapper Bermudez, Adamson's Darwin Bolisay and Dickie Bunsa, HSBA's Jayson Sun and Ateneo Salvation and NEBTS's Rukeh Felipe and Raymond Vega.

Quarterfinalists in the ladies' doubles were UE's Bautista Ancasco and Lyka Lozano, UP's Sarah and Mariyl Cayog, UE's Rizell Tesio and Karen Bautista, and Carroll Capitol and Hazel ann Andres, Sacred Heart's Jolynne Abdil and Kathleen Ubaldo, FEU's Cristelle Sandoz and Ma. Theresa Sebastian, La Salle's Thorine and Pinky Chan, and St. Scholastica's Jennelyn Mesos-le and Mary Ann Catedra.

SPORTSWATCH

De Jesus shines for Stateliets

JOHN Miguel de Jesus roared two times to qualify for Interhigh's Schools to the gold round in the 2004 Soccer Festival Two Interhigh-bred chess luminaries entered entry divisions of the Queen's Row Elementary School in Bacoor, Cavite. Stateliets scored 26 points with De Jesus screaming all of his 13 assignments to qualify for the Manila Cavite Juniors Bowl (MCJB) shooting Oct. 29 with teammates and top-ranked quarterback Jayson Agustin. Agustin claimed the gold in Round 1 after scoring 13 wins in 14 matches. Emerson Cervantes, School graduate the silver with 23 points while Archer Elementary School nabbed 20 points to bag the bronze. Marlon Mercadejas, Contributor

Kiwi Executive Cup Oct. 1-3

THE MBM Executive Cup will be held at the Links Badminton Center on Oct. 2 and 3. Supplies and executives are invited to join the event sponsored by Blue Sports Express. The annual cheering activities for sports officials. Other facilities are Alpha Athletic Field and Gym, Pasig City Sports Center, Pasig City Hall Gym, Bonifacio Gym, Ateneo Rizal Gym, Rizal Memorial Coliseum, Ateneo

Lorenzo, Bfar head misused gov't funds, COA audit shows

By Christine Zaplicon

SEE ALSO? report by the Commission on Audit has implicated former Agriculture Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo Jr. and Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Officer Dr. Victor Melodez Santiago in the alleged misuse of P6 million in government funds last year.

The COA report showed that Lorenzo allegedly spent P2.5 million for aeration fuel on different days between December 2003 and May 2004. Salim Estimatores of Air Charter Inc. was listed as the payee.

Dr. Antonio and Lorenzo used the Low jet of Subic Air which is owned and managed by the family.

"The expenditures for plane usage of P2.53 million were grossly excessive, or worse, considering that an executive and his private jet were hired from one place to another using a private plane," COA auditor Ferdi J. Ramos said in his report.

Ramos noted that "antiquated/barely seen gourmet food the EA executive usually ordered for flights plying the same route."

DA sources said this was not the first time Lorenzo chartered the Low jet expenses to the DA.

"It just so happens that during other times there was no paper trail but on the occasion, the COA noticed the discrepancy," a DA source said.

But in an interview, Lorenzo said his expenses had come from his own pocket.

Lorenzo was replaced as DA chief in May but was appointed minister of the United Bank of the Philippines and the Quedan Rural Credit and Guarantee Corp.

In the case of Antonio, Ramos, also the resident Bfar COA auditor, noted the Bfar chief to replace the use of fourth evading P7.6 million intended to maintain the aquaculture of El Niño in the Fisheries sector during the period of February to May 2003.

The amount of P7.6 million disbursed from the El Niño funds was beyond the bounds of mission or objective of the program, the COA report said.

Another major discrepancy noted by the COA were the radio messages intended for fishermen in relation interesting to P6.21 million payable to VG Productions.

Ramos said the radio messages were not broadcast over the air.

Antipatid's Randy Hernandez suffered cuts and bruises when he was assaulted by a Paranaque nightclub bouncer/bar.

PDI photog beaten in 'girlie' club

By Nancy C. Carvajal

Inquirer photographer Randy Hernandez was badly beaten up by three members of the Dynasty Real club on Roxas Boulevard, Parañaque City.

According to Hernández, club manager Ted Sandoval and three unidentified bouncers attacked him inside the club after a scuffle ordered he was taking pictures without a flash. He suffered cuts and bruises on the face and body.

Sandoval accosted me when he learned that I was taking photos of the naked girls on stage," Hernández said. He said it was the second time he was harassed such acts at the club.

Hernández was able to escape but attacked and ran out of the club after the bouncers took his camera, wallet and cell phone. Police were able to recover the camera but the blackout been removed.

Hernández said in later statements were not allowed in the club but he insisted it is under his jacket. "I wanted to get a scoop," he said.

It was Hernández who took photos of governmental cases such as Licensor photos packed outside the night club several weeks ago.

The incident reached the desk of Raul but was told by a certain Rodel Cating that the former was not around.

Unleaded gas prices lowered by 25-35¢/ltr

By Abigail L. Ho

MOTORISTS driving gasoline-run vehicles will soon be able to enjoy pump price rates of between 25 and 35 centimes a liter as oil firms bring down the prices of unleaded gasoline in response to a downward trend in world prices.

The rate, ending a string of price increases in August and early this month, was decided on by oil refiner Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and finished product importers Caltex (Philippines) Inc., Total Petroleum Corp., Petrol Petroleum Philippines Inc. and Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc. and Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc. and Phoenix

Gov't eyes lower remittance cost for OFWs

THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Employment (DOLE) wants to lower the cost of remitting money to the country by convincing Filipino workers...

"We are looking at bringing down the cost of supporting money. I understand that in some places, our workers pay to send money to the Philippines... [and] their relatives also pay a fee for receiving it. Here. What happens is the money is charged twice for service," Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said.

She also said the country's dollar remittances in 2003 totaled about $7.7 billion to the country. Last year, they totaled $7.8 billion.

At a press conference during the 1st country-mediated international conference of Asian labor-sending countries, Sto. Tomas said talks would be held with the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank on the feasibility of lowering the cost of remitting money back to foreign workers' country of origin.

Labor ministers and senior officials from Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and the Philippines met on Sept. 22-24 in a bid to come up with policies aimed at ensuring the protection of migrant workers.

CowWorks, Inc.

The WORLD

Edited by Lawrence B. Rivera

Human-to-human transfer of bird flu feared

BANGKOK—The World Health Organization said Saturday it was "suspecting human-to-human transmission" of bird flu that occurred in northern Thailand, marking what could be the first such transmission of the lethal virus.

"From the ensuing data... we are suspecting human-to-human transmission" of bird flu, the WHO's acting Thailand representative Jaimito Jose said after studying information from Kanchanaburi province where the deaths of a girl and boy (as reported to be caused by bird flu.

The 11-year-old girl's mother, who lived near Bangkok but traveled north to visit her daughter in hospital and then stayed for several, returned to the Thai capital where she too fell ill and died. Her death is also on the suspect list.

Bird flu is suspect but has not been confirmed in the cases. Lab laboratory tests on the three fatalities, as well as of the girl's aunt who has been hospitalized with severe pneumonia, have being conducted to determine whether they carried the virus.

Jose said the WHO was "very much concerned, but we are awaiting the laboratory confirmations," which is expected as early as Monday.

He said he had contacted the UN health agency's headquarters in Geneva to urge them to send experts to Thailand to assist in the field investigations.

Avian influenza's lethal 1918 strain has killed 24 people in Vietnam and Thailand this year in two waves of avian outbreaks which also caused the death or culling of more than 100 million chickens.

The WHO fears H5N1 could mutate into a highly contagious form that triggers a global human flu pandemic.

When asked if it confirmed travel bans between humans in the Thai cases would mark the first step in such a feared outcome, Jose said "I think so."

Health ministry officials have confirmed the girl and the 24-year-old boy in Kanchanaburi Province had some date contact with their households' chickens that fell ill and killed, but that and others have said it was not clear what her the mother and the aunt had contact with the animals.

But on Friday with field epidemiologists, Thai-based officials from the US Centers for Disease Control, and senior Thai health officials, it was confirmed that what her the women had come to — contact with the fowl.

"We are still short hunter to say that those were no contacts with sick birds," he said.

Thailand has been put on bird flu alert as a precautionary measure, said Health Minister Sudarat Keyuraphan, who also headed the country's bird flu committee. Officials but no knowledgeable concern has mounted the mother and aunt may have contracted bird flu directly from the girl.

Earlier, Jose spoke to downplay the fears, stressing preliminary tests on the aunt showed no bird flu. AFP

British hostage killed, Islamic website claims

BAGHDAD—A group on an Islamic Internet site Saturday claimed that an al-Qaeda-linked group had killed British hostage Kenneth Bigley.

The claim could not immediately be verified, but surfaced on a website usually used by followers of Jordanian terror mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi to post their statements.

The site also claimed that another British hostage had been captured, but Capt. Donald Francis, a spokesperson for the British military said that all forces "are accounted for." He had no information on the claim, added Reuters.

The militant group Tawhid and Jihad, led by al-Zarqawi, had threatened to kill Bigley unless Iraqi women are freed from prison.

The statement, which appeared on the site typed in red, consisted of a single line.

"Tawhid and Jihad announces that it has executed the British citizen and gives you the good news of kidnapping seven British subjects," the statement said. "We will be releasing the tape shortly."

The statement follows the beheadings of two Americans, a Filipino grocery clerk whose video footage last week with Bigley. The 62-year-old British man showed up in a videotape Wednesday begging authorities to meet his kidnappers' demands and save his life.

The Foreign Office in London said it was aware of such a claim, but described it as a "discredited" site.

"We don't think it's anything to be taking too seriously," the Foreign Office spokesman said.

The group claiming came a day after Bigley's 46-year-old brother Ed begged the kidnappers to let him see his brother.

"Please show mercy to my family and take home to me alive," the author, a video statement, sitting behind a table between two of the other men and grasping one's hand. "His family need him. I need him."

Hours after making the statement, Ed Bigley was taken to also all hospital, where officials said his condition was stable. It was not clear what she was being treated for.

Bigley's wife, Sombat, also pleaded with the militants to release her husband.

"My love has been reunited for seven years and I love him very much," she said from her home in Thailand. "I desperately want to be reunited with my husband. I plan for your mercy now, and beg that you release him so that I may be with him again." AP

WORLD BRIEFS

India, Pakistan leaders hail new ties

NEW YORK—The leaders of India and Pakistan hailed a new dispute-settlement following peace talks Friday in New York that included dinners given on their fellow dispute-new Kashmir. "I commonly believe today is a historic day. We have made a major beginning," said Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the ribbon-cutting journey with Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf after their hour-long, one-on-one summit. "I feel confident that despite the difficulties on the way, I and President Musharraf will together work and succeed in writing a new chapter in the history of our two countries." Musharraf said he was "optimistic" that the two countries' foreign ministers have Singh become prime minister following his Congress party's surprise election victory in May. A cordially worded joint statement read by Musharraf said the two sides had agreed to explore possible options for a peaceful negotiated settlement of the Kashmir dispute "in a sincere spirit and purposeful manner." AFP

New hurricane heads toward Florida

MIAMI—Residents of thousands of people on Florida's mid-coast were told to leave their homes once again on Friday as deadly Hurricane "Jeanne" appeared bent for which could be a second fourth hurricane hit it a year on the southeastern state. Jeanne, packing 195-kilometer winds, 1,000 people since it dumped low initial rains or both last weekend, was churning past through the Atlantic Ocean with top winds of 140 kph and how sandern said it could strengthen in the coming day. The storm was forecasted to move into the northern Bahamas on Saturday and hit Florida's coast on Sunday, threatening areas ravaged by hurricane "Frances" just three weeks ago. By Friday afternoon, almost all the east coast of Florida was under a hurricane warning, causing residents should prepare for two more conditions or 24 hours. Reuters

Bush lead over Kerry narrows in Time poll

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush led Democratic nominee John Kerry by four percentage points in a Time magazine poll released Friday, compared with an 11-point lead in a similar poll two weeks ago. Forty-eight percent of likely voters surveyed said they would vote for Bush, and 42 percent said they would vote for Kerry, according to the magazine's latest poll. Five percent said they would vote for Ralph Nader. Among registered voters, 48 percent said the United States was right to go to war against Iraq, down five points from two weeks ago. Reuters

Dogs can help fight cancer

LONDON—Man's most loyal friend could also be a lifesaver in the fight against cancer. Scientists said Friday dogs can be used to detect bladder cancer by smelling urine. There is already anecdotal evidence of dogs sniffing their owners spotting cancers of skin cancer by persistently sniffing suspicious moles, which were later diagnosed as malignant. Now, in research published in the British Medical Journal, scientists have shown dogs can identify bladder cancer by detecting chemicals in urine emitted by cancerous cells. "Dogs can be trained to detect in urine other chemical traces for bladder cancer," Dr. Gordon White, of three-years-long study, told BBC radio's Today program. "I thought I just love to see how far we can go. I thought to give off organic compounds with distinctive odors that dogs can detect even in very small quantities. AFP

4 US Marines killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD—Four US Marines were killed in three separate incidents west of Baghdad the US military said Saturday. The four were assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force and were killed while in the conducting operations in Anbar province, the military said. No further details were given. The names of the dead were withheld pending notification of their families. On Friday, Sept. 24, 1,021 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the defense department. Of these, 782 died as a result of hostile action. The figures include those killed in Kuwait. AP

'Miracle' baby born to cancer patient

PARIS...In a world-first achievement that may also look the limits of human fertility, a woman has given birth after her ovarian tissue was removed, frozen, thawed and then transplanted, doctors announced Friday.

More than seven years after shots of ovary were placed in storage to give her the chance of motherhood after cancer therapy, 32-year-old Belgian woman Chrystelle Touchard gave birth to a healthy 3.72 kilo (8.2 pound) girl, they said.

The child, born late Thursday at the Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc in Brussels, has been named Tamara, the clinic said.

"For us patients, this is hope, this is a real miracle," Touchard said.

It is the first time that a child has been born to a woman whose ovarian tissue has been frozen and later transplanted.

All previous attempts to restore fertility from ovarian tissue have failed to produce eggs or led only to early-stage embryos of just a few cells that never developed to a pregnancy.

The team, led by Jacques Donnez, a professor at the city's Catholic University of Louvain, suggest the technique could save the hopefulness of cells in patients for women like Touchard, who had been diagnosed with advanced cancer at the age of only 25. AFP

ENTERTAINMENT

Text us your feedback

Editor Louis C. Camino

Michael Moore, uncensored

By Rubert V. Noguiles
LA Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—Michael Moore's cell phone rings in the middle of a press conference.

"Excuse me," says the controversial documentary filmmaker as he proceeds to answer the phone. Without skipping a beat, the self-avowed President Bush-hater says, "Hello? Mr. Bush. Yes, I'm in the middle of a big press conference here." He raises the cell phone toward the laughing journalists and reiterates, "Say hello!"

"Hello?" the reporters yell.

"Talk to you later, bye-bye," says a grinning Moore, whose docupoli-tical, "Fahrenheit 9/11," won the plum Palme d'Or at this year's Cannes film festival. He puts down the phone. "The kid was a lawyer," he says, identifying the caller, and laughs. "God knows what they're about! Jesus."

With that statement, Moore proceeds to give us one of the most fascinating press runs we've attended in our career. He replies to a question as to why President Bush happened to a Florida classroom (reading "My Pet Goat" for second graders) while two planes hit the Twin Towers a notable. The session, which began in mid-afternoon, would have gone on past midnight and the press would still have more questions for the brave moviemaker.

The next day, one of the last 10 year-olds-darned to public office to vote on his local school board) in the US is a four-storey, 86-(a very) fancy when he elevates, in his perfect imitation of Gollum in "The Lord of the Rings," Oscar night 2003. He pointed a broken-the horse trapped in Bush. Should he lash out at President Bush and why then just launched criticism of Iraq of the? Deviding to speak against Bush and his allies which was popular at that time, Moore succeeded in his acceptance speech by running the Oscar for best documentary feature for "Bowling for Columbine."

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

He may have another shot at an Oscar acceptance speech. Its very suspense reports that "Fahrenheit 9/11" was not submitted for consideration in the best documentary category, where it would have been a strong contender but was instead folded in the best picture and other major categories.

The film, described as a "counter-examination of the Bush administration's actions in the wake of the tragic events of 9/11," has entered a record $222.6 million in the US alone and is now the highest-grossing (anti-)nonfiction documentary. (Pity would have thought a documentary running just seconds like "Shrek 2" and "Spider-Man 2" in among the top-earning 10 films in the US summer of 2004?

It is true, though, that Bowling, for which Moore was awarded an accepted clothes, is unrecognized at the press run by two bodyguards on calls. Asked when he decided to face the bodyguards, who are an unusual sight at a Hollywood press con, Moore smiles and asks, "What makes you think I have bodyguards? What makes you think they're mine? One guy is my chief, and the other guy is my Filipino instructor."

Finally he confesses, "The studio and [the insurance company, Imagine,] hired an agency to do the logistics and the security and stuff. But I'm personally not worried."

You must get a lot of threats.

I get lots and lots everybody does in this sort of thing. I guess the assumption you're making is that the right wing is violent, so has violent measures will be it.

One of the most fascinating parts of the documentary is the one in which President Bush is told that America is under attack and that the second tower has been hit while he is in a Florida classroom of second grade kids. But there are ways to the classroom reading "My Pet Goat" for nearly seven minutes. Do you think he calculatingly stonewall or was he planning his move?

It's a very good question, because I've thought about it a lot. You know, it wasn't just the six or seven minutes that he was

MICHAEL ALI

BUSH-BASHER. Moore is proud: says: "I'm a filmmaker and a writer. I'm not a Democrat. I'm a member of the Democratic Party."

Michael Moore, uncensored

OSCAR 2004. Moore, who gives Inquisitr Entertainment's LA correspondent a very fascinating interview, has another shot at the Oscar.

seeing them in the classroom. He stopped so that school a full half hour after being told the second phase hit the streets. Their answer was, "Well, he didn't want to scare the children." (Laughs) He's just been told America is under attack. That means, as the commander-in-chief, he's a target. The last thing you want to do is cut yourself off with 100 children! Get yourself away from the children, instead, he stayed in the school.

I was looking at it again last night. I was on a show and they showed that clip. I had the feeling that perhaps they forgot he was there. (Laughs) Now, think about this. Because you've heard [Vice President] Cheney describe what was going out in the White House, Cheney was in charge. Cheney was calling the shots. Cheney, I think, came up with the idea of shooting the pilots down and then told Bush.

Cheney tells the story about how he was immediately filled up by the Secret Service and carried down to the bunker. Immediately, right? But Bush is left sitting in a classroom. I think they were so busy trying to figure out what to do with him, that by the time was under attack that they began he was sitting there! (Laughs) And he looks like a child lost in the shopping mall. "Where are my parents?" (Laughs)

There was a British general who went to the presidents of Yugoslavia & U.S. to London. He came out of the movie and he said, "I've seen that look before, and I look at his [Bush's] eyes. And I'll tell you what: If I was under attack, and a lieutenant of mine had that look on his face, he would be immediately relieved of his command. I know what he said: It's not the look of someone who's paralyzed and cannot act or function, and must be removed immediately and [must] be relieved of his command."

They should play those seven minutes over and over again. If Americans are truly afraid, that should make them go through the roof.

Why do we say less of you everywhere in this film?

The subject matter in this film was so strong and powerful that I did not want to get in the way of it, to sit in the comedy in the film to connect but, there's no way I could have been in the movie. George W. Bush, as I felt, better that I play the straight man and let him have the laughs. I just haven't felt like going in front of the camera.

What are the reasons your movies has become so successful is that your voice is one of the few expressing loud dissent.

Well, I think a lot of people are afraid to speak out because they feel that it's unpatriotic to do so. Nobody wants to be booed on the stage of the Kodak Theater. It was the fifth day of the war, and I'm on that stage, and it's an unduly risky thing to do. I had to decide at that moment: That was my finest moment. I've earned that. I was thinking, this will never happen again in my lifetime. This is a moment of joy. And I got to celebrate that.

And, walking up to those steps, they're all standing, and it's like, I've got two voices in my head essentially. One's going [in his Gollum voice], "how blow them a kiss and walk off the stage." And the other one is going, "No! You have a job to do. (Laughs) You have a job to do! You must say something." "No!! Don't, Precious! (laughs) Precious! Don't! You must! Chase! (laughs) Bad Hunter, evil! Bad." (Laughs)

That all took place in about five seconds in my head.

I'll tell you a story. A soldier stopped me on the street a few weeks ago. He said, "I want to see a film on Iraq that's not like *Fahrenheit 9/11*." So I'm on the night of the Oscars. They brought in the Oscars on the ship. We all booed you when you said that. I was so angry at you that you said what you said. I've just come back. I've been there for a year. I want to apologize to you for being angry at you that night."

I said, "You don't apologize to me. We apologize to you. The American people owed to apologize to you for putting you in harm's way when it wasn't for the self-defense of the country, when in fact it was to line the pockets of those who are the benefactors of the Bush family. We owe you an apology. What was your name? That you believed your President, your Commander-in-Chief? You believed him. There's nothing wrong with that. You should be able to believe your President. You should be able to believe what comes out of his mouth. If we don't have that, what are we left with?"

At some point, you have to decide if you're going to be a person of courage and conscience, and no matter what the risks are, you have to stand up. I'm not upset at those people who booed me. I don't think they'd boo me today. I don't know if I'll ever be let back in the theater but [laughs] maybe, yeah.

When you finished the movie, what kind of hopes or expectations did you have? And were there any surprises to the movie's journey?

I've been most surprised by the response from the troops and their families. I have over 1,000 letters now from soldiers in Iraq. I'm going to put them out in a book before the election because I want the American public to read these letters. They're so powerful. The letters aren't about the films as much as, "Mike, I want to tell you what's going on here. I want to tell you what we're being run through." The stuff that you're just not going to hear on the evening news. And why should you? (LS, already has $600-million dollars in contracts in Iraq. They own NBC, Disney, we already know where they're at. They own ABC.

My hope for this film is that it would have some effect on people. Not just for this election, because those stories are going to be with us next year. On the issues in the film about terrorism, the war on terror, do we give up our civil liberties to fight the war on terror? I'm Iraq stunned. We're going to have all these with us a year from now, regardless of who is in the White House.

I want people to think about the larger issues, about how fear is used to manipulate you, the people.

Bush could win on best actor in a comedy.

I would sit at Bush's table (laughs) if you nominated him.

Do you see yourself as a film maker, journalist or a political activist?

I see myself as a filmmaker. I do not see myself as an activist. I think the word activist, when just wanted to make a political statement, I'd run for office. If I wanted to preach to people, I'd go be a preacher. I've chosen to be a filmmaker. In first and foremost, I want to make the best film you've seen this year. That is my first goal. I mean this to be the best film going experience for you, the audience, this year.

It doesn't diminish the political. It helps the politics if you're concerned about the art first.

For some reason, Michael Moore becomes the new punching bag for conservatives. Why?

I don't know. I'm not the only one who's critical of the president. I'm not the only one who's critical of the war. I'm not the only one who's critical of the way the war was sold to the American people. I'm not the only one who's critical of the way the war is being executed. I'm not the only one who's critical of the way the war is being executed. I'm not the only one who's critical of the way the war is being executed.

At some point, you have to decide if you're going to be a person of courage and conscience, and no matter what the risks are, you have to stand up. I'm not upset at those people who booed me. I don't think they'd boo me today

STORYTELLING TIME. Bush lingers for seven minutes reading "My Pet Goat" to children after he learns the second WTC tower has been hit.

of those young adult brain-trust could not find Iraq on the map. Forty percent could not find Britain on the map. Forty-Nine percent of that little kissing cut ass, we don't even know where the hell he is! (Laughs)

And here's the bad one: Eleven percent of the American public, 18 to 25-years old, could not find the US on the globe. I'm not making this up. National Geographic. Fall of 2002, did this poll. Because we live in a system of enforced ignorance in this country. It's enforced in school, and then when you're out of school, through the media. The whole thrust is to keep Americans stupid about the world in which we live. If they can get away with that, they can get away with selling us anything.

Look at your newsmen in your countries. Now does the evening newscaster get to be here in front of your countries. It doesn't begin with, "Tonight it drives by about... (Laughs) Three killed in the South-land? We got it tonight in Iraq, tell us, Gregg! Brian's the scene?"

(Laughs) How much every night in LA, right? "He've got ..."

Helicopters on the freeway! Let's go there right now! Yes, there's a car travelling late on the Freeway!" You turn on the news in the U.K. and you turn on the news in London, you turn on the news in majestic and you'll hear, "Tonight,

economic measures met in Brussels to discuss the..."

(Laughs) Laughs! Do people! The word! Brussels is used. Where's Brussels? (Laughs) It's painful to live in a system of enforced ignorance, but we like us as people. There's something very clear to control us and our "emotions."

(Laughs) Right? Because we're right out there. It's an out clause. We're blind of, "Hey, hey, hey!" (Laughs). There's a limb of property to protect.

But the good news is that since we do leave the work, once the facts are uncovered, we come around. And that's what's happened to George W. Bush. From a high approval rating of 90 and 91 percent. From 80 percent supporting the war, now to 54 percent being opposed to it, in a short period of time, because the people were given the truth.

I'm optimistic. I'm optimistic from a good place or their core. In their core, they don't like being lied to. But if you believed him? And you were willing to send your kids over there? Then you discover that you've got a number of your children are dead as a result of that lie? Do you understand the sense of betrayal average middle-American feel toward this man?

I'm not a Democrat. I'm not a member of the Democratic Party. I've never met John Kerry.

I'm going to be donating a good chunk of my money from this film to make sure that every voter gets registered. I'm going to non-violent, civil disobedience and I will encourage everyone to do the same if they try to steal and hurt the election. We will exercise our democratic rights to stop it. I'm beginning. They will never get away with this again.

Does any of this take its toll on you personally?

I have not been able to sleep in three months, really, more just three months, maybe, since I've been on [Bush's] case. It has been as exhilarating. Every day is a new battle. Against the forces that want to try and stop the film or stop people from seeing the movie. It's been hard physically to be on the road every other day. It's very hard on that level.

Are you still doing a film about the medical insurance system in the US?

Yes, I am. I am going to do a film at some point. I don't know if it'll be the next film, but it may be. It will be on the health care system in the US, or lack of health care system—the insurance companies, the drug companies, and the pharmaceutical companies.

I don't understand why one of the richest countries on earth allows 44 million of its people to not be able to get help when they get sick. It's a human right.

I have a very good concept for a documentary that will be very funny and damning, and it'll be the opposite of [unintelligible] those corporations and politicians who have got us in this situation.

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OPINION

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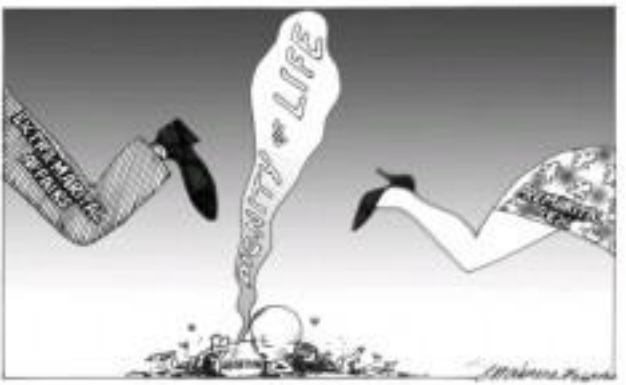

Bush at the UN

EDITORIAL

LAST week, at the annual opening of the UN General Assembly, George W. Bush presented a campaigner's vision of a free and democratic Iraq. "Iraq as a democracy will have great power to inspire the Middle East," the US president said in a 30-minute speech, suggesting that Iraq is well on its way to becoming a shining example of democracy in action.

The sad truth is, Iraq today is capable only of inspiring fear: fear that American stubbornness and stupidity will make the volatile Middle East even more unstable, and terror-stricken nations even more unsafe.

In his speech, Bush spoke as if the situation in Iraq was well in hand. "Across Iraq, life is being improved by liberty. Across the Middle East, people are safer because an unstable aggressor has been removed from power. Across the world, nations are more secure because an ally of terror has fallen."

The sad truth is, Iraq is descending into chaos—and nations as a consequence are less secure.

Since the invasion of Iraq, over a thousand American soldiers and possibly 10,000 Iraqis have lost their lives in increasingly out-of-control acts of violence. After another visit to Iraq, Jessica Matthews, the president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, reported: "Average daily attacks have climbed from 22 to 87, and crucial parts of the country are no longer under US (or Iraqi government) control. What was an emerging opposition is now a full-fledged insurgency. The United States is still without a political strategy that recognizes this today."

Part of the reality that Bush fails to recognize is that the invasion of the US-led coalition occupying Iraq are not necessarily terrorists or even former supporters of the odious regime of Saddam Hussein. "We are conducting precision raids against terrorists and holdovers of the former regime," Bush said. "These killers are at war with the Iraqi people. They have made Iraq the central front in the war on terror and they will be defeated."

The sad truth is, it was the Bush administration that decided to make Iraq the "central front" in the war on terror. Saddam was a corrupt and abusive dictator, but his regime had no ties to Osama bin Laden and the al-Qaida terrorist network. Unlike Afghanistan, Iraq did not lend its resources to the September 11 terrorists. Unlike Afghanistan, Iraq did not harbor bin Laden. Iraq was on the periphery in the war on terror—until the White House decided to invade and occupy it. It is the "central front" for Bush only because more Americans soldiers die there than in any other area of assignment, killed by Iraqi insurgents waging guerrilla warfare.

In his speech, Bush also finessed the reason for invading Iraq in the first place. There are only two or three brief mentions of weapons of mass destruction. But the destruction of the hated Saddam regime is played up for paragraphs on end. "The true instruments of his rule and his character, the torture chambers and the rape rooms and the prison cells for innocent children, are closed. And as we discover the killing fields and mass graves of Iraq, the true scale of Saddam's cruelty is being revealed."

The sad truth is, there was never any question about the horrific nature of Saddam's misrule. The issue was whether an invasion against a country with weapons of mass destruction could be launched without the sanction of the United Nations. The result of American militarism, of going it alone with a few token allies, is Bush's pathetic half-truth: The United States did find more evidence of Saddam's cruelty, but not a single evidence of any WMD.

Nine half-truths are useful lies; they are a diplomat's stock in trade. Thus is partly why Bush's speech at the United Nations met a cold reception. He was lying through his teeth, before an audience familiar with both his lies and the conventions of lying. They saw through him.

Professionally polite, they did not laugh when they saw that the emperor had no clothes on, nor even a fig leaf of legitimacy or credibility to cover his nakedness. They merely waited till the end of his speech, before giving Bush the traditional round of applause.

Increased judicial costs

SEPARATE OPINION

Augusto A. Cruz

I RECEIVED a letter from a former student of mine from San Beda College who is now practicing law. He requests my support for his "irrepressible" objection to an 80-centavo amendment by the Supreme Court of Rule 141 of the Revised Rules of Court as "contrary to the basic principle of immediate and inexpensive administration of our courts to the people."

In his letter to the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, which he hopes will start a massive settlement of the Rule, lawyer Jose G. Bautista cites Sec. 8 (g) and Sec. 11 (h) of the Rule which provide:

(g) For any other services an clerk not provided in this section, one hundred P100.00 shall be collected.

(h) For motions for postponement (whether verbal or written), after completion of the pretrial conference, two hundred five any other motion, one hundred (P200.00) shall be collected.

Bautista says that the clerk of court is paid a regular salary plus allowances for performing services function in his position which should therefore not be subject to special assignment to be paid by the lawyer or his client. If, for example, there is a need to examine judicial records as guaranteed by the right to information under the Constitution, will the clerk refuse such examination unless the fee of P100 is first paid?

Bautista avers that the Rule does not distinguish between justified and unjustified motions which are both subject to the prescribed fee. "There are motions that are justified, e.g., sickness or death of a lawyer or witness, flood or inclement weather, unrevealed incidents before trial can proceed, like a motion to dismiss or demurrer to evidence."

To motions of kinds of motions without discussion is, he says, "another production to the goal of speedy, fair and inexpensive determination of cases, it may even be injurious." Most motions are, in fact necessary save only those clear see dilatory or superfluous.

"During the trial, may the judge refuse to rule on oral motions to strike out answers to questions for being irrespective, hearsay, irrelevant, etc., or exclude other witnesses inside the courtroom nor are to testify or for other related hearings, or motions to march an exhibit pursuant documentary physical evidence, or oral motions for direct contempt made during trial for rude or disrespectful conduct in the presence of the court, until the assessment for each motion is paid?

"I am of the impression that the primordial matter for promoting inclusive fair inexpensive, expeditious and/or dilatory motions is to discourage frivolous, baseless, expedite early resolution and termination of cases. If so, why should a motion to resolve, for default, summary judgment, judgment on the pleadings, motion of discovery, for motion of where they are the very termination or retardation superlative resolution of cases?"

Among the rules he invokes to support his request for a re-examination of the above-quoted sections and other questionable provisions of Rule 140 of the Revised Rules of Court is Sec. 6, which provides that "these Rules shall be liberally construed in order to promote their objective of securing a just, speedy and inexpensive disposition of every action and proceeding." (Stress supplied)

He also cites the provisions in the Bill of Rights, in addition to the Due Process Clause in Sec. 1, that "free access to the courts and quasi-judicial bodies, and adequate legal assistance shall not be denied to any person by reason of poverty" in Sec. 11. He might have mentioned as well Art. VIII, Sec. 5 (5) that the Rules of Court to be promulgated by the Supreme Court "shall provide a simplified and inexpensive procedure for the speedy disposition of cases." (Emphasis mine)

Here hopes that I shall have other changes to suggest but for truth is that I have not yet read Rule 141 as amended and can only comment on his own calculation of the above-quoted sections, which I believe require careful consideration by the Supreme Court. For the moment, I will only say that in disseminating information on "verbal or written," "the Rule merely or think that a written motion is not verbal. I think the phrase should be rewritten as "oral or written," both of them being verbal, of course. Judges should be careful even if Bautista is not.

The IBP has already made representations with the Supreme Court for the re-examination of the revised fees on basic principles for of supports of strict opposition from the Philippine bar. I also other no lists of net saving, we are already testing from the increasingly unbearable burden of the cost of living. The thought that the increased fees are supposed to provide for the incentives or benefit of the judiciary, including the Supreme Court, gives some comfort, indeed, to us mere practitioners.

The latest report is that the Supreme Court has suspended the application of some of the pronouncements. I hope that in meeting he reconsiderations of Rule 141, the IBP has not been dragged into procedural by P200.

Seeing with the heart

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Gorospe, SVD

AMOS in his teacher what his father does, a man's boy answered that his father is a magician who specializes in curing people into real! Proud of this, he said, he does he has cure half-cures and cure half-wonders.

* * *

The story about the rich man and Lazarus in today's Gospel (Lk. 16, 19-31) reminds us that in this world, some people are rich and some people are poor. Some people are good, and some people are bad. That's the first half of the story.

The second half is that there is eternal life where the bad will be punished, and the good will have their reward. We have to see the complete picture. We are focused on the differences and pleasures of this life that you are forgetting eternal life."

* * *

When we were little children, Mama never failed to remind us the value of being good and of sacrificing now rather than suffering in the near life. She was in fact teaching us the important key to being us to be humble, to be diligent, to be obedient and to be self-sacrificing, because she did we want any of us, her children, to experience hell and punishment. Her greatest ambition, she said, would be if our family would see be complete in heaven someday.

Who will echo of seventy these days? Who will emphasize the importance to focused on the perks and pleasures of the here and now, no later but right of the promise and reality of eternity, to plead on the attitude of our self pleasure, indulgence and whatever else, we have forgotten to look up to the great love shown and the one filled heavens.

* * *

Somebody once said that a person has **measured** when he/she is able to pronounce the "word" for the "hero." Self-transcendence is hardly audible in our world which speaks so loud of self fulfillment. When the world began to the gospel message that it is precisely self-transcendence that leads to

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An Old Soldier fades away

RIVERLLE

Ramon J. Farolan

LAST month, as the nation marched the long 14 commemoration of Edsa's Peoples Power, then 20 years ago, a pillar of professionalism in the military service quietly slipped away, just four months short of his 100th birthday. Brigadier General Leoncio S. Tan, the oldest surviving general in the Armed Forces and the oldest surviving Philippine Army commander, was "Tatang" to all his friends and colleagues in and out of the military organization...a soldier-statesman who lived by honor and duty and commanded personality through decades of service to the nation.

The youngest of six children of a Chinese father, Isagani Tan Guinsatao, and a Filipina mother, Leoncia Sy Tan, he was born in the small town of San Luis, Pampanga on Dec. 25, 1904. When he was a year old, his father left for China never to return. It fell on his mother to provide for the family and she supported herself by selling cooked rice cakes. She also ran two jueteng and Tarlo line jobs at the age of 9 years but of a coffeader (collector) in the numbers racket, making 50 centavos from collecting bets. (This gave us an idea how long jueteng has been in existence.) Tatang's mother, who never knew how to read or write, was determined that her children would have better opportunities in life and took the trouble to see that they attended school.

"Tatang" was one of 25 cadets who graduated with the Class of 1926. Among his classmates were Basilio Valdes, the first Filipino to reach the coveted three-star rank; Jose Calugas, a Medal of Honor awardee in World War II; and Vicente Lim, who was promoted to major general in the Philippine Army.

Tatang was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Philippine Constabulary and was posted to Iligan. The appointment of the group that joined Apolito Olivas Galpo and Tirso Dizon. The founding No. 2 in the final class standing, he would in the early member of the class to attain the rank of brigadier general.

In December 1941, "Tatang" was promoted to lieutenant colonel and took command of the 2nd Military Area covering Central Luzon, with headquarters at Camp Olivas in Pampanga. It was the height of the struggle against the Hukbalahap insurgents. The army is told that losing a Japanese garage, Tan was familiar with many of the Huk commanders in the area. One of them, a Commander Del, was in fact a relative. Due to his family ties, he tried to use persuasion rather than force to get Del back into the fold of the general system. He sent a message asking him to surrender and guaranteeing his freedom from prosecution. After a few days a messenger from the Huk chieftain arrived at Tan's office in Camp Olivas with a message for "Tatang." Allegedly at the movement and I will guarantee your safety! Nevertheless, Commander Del was killed in an encounter with government troops.

That's career reached its peak in July 1957 when he was designated commanding general of the Philippine Army. After a year, he retired from the service and was appointed as a member of various government boards, including those of the National Bureau of Investigation and general manager of the National Rice and Corn Administration.

Although the Edsa 1 image was part of his persona, he was not a demonstrative individual even with family members. However, his youngest daughter, Concepcion, who is married to Mon Gonzalez, recalled, "Even as a child, I knew that when my father was in the hospital a few days before his death, he took her hand and he talked to Apolito his clerks—something he had never done before. It was a message of love from someone who was not very emotional."

My own recollection of the general is that of a person thoroughly rooted in the fundamentals of a professional soldier. Whenever he would speak of gatherings of the ROTC graduates, he would always stress the importance of professionalism. Where there was professionalism, there was little chance for graft and corruption to thrive. Where professionalism was lacking, higher numbers of disciplines and morality were evidence in the lives of the brotherhood.

Tatang had brief impromptu "Question and Answer" sessions on significant or heated issues, from martial law to EDSA to corruption, from democracy to the Cha-cha—truly comprehensive and challenging.

...

All we touched home from watching "Big Brother" last Sunday evening, my daughter wondered jokingly if we would be the next TV interviewee figure growing up in front of our darkened doorway. All of a sudden, a woman's shadowy figure appeared out of darkness and we all started screaming. It turned out to be our house help who had returned from her day off and found herself locked out of the house. I don't know who was more surprised, us or our unfortunate maid!

But that is how powerful "Big Brother" the movie is, in spite of its flaws. Even the lighting effect of the bulb in the movie house. That's, to be sure, is not like Apolito under bright sunlight, but I'll find yourself having a hard time sleeping in the dark after watching the movie!

Even the opening line sung by Yeng Guiao in broken English in the tune of "Feng Shui" is a delicious mixture of Filipino and English. Some of the typical gaudy couches have also over the ghastly figures emerge out from dark and dim corners, but in a way that's a new and modern house. Perhaps that's the movie's theme, that evil and the supernatural are found not in one nightmarish but in our waking hours, not in ghosts but in our own hearts, dread and guilt that we carry within us.

There is another kind line in the center of "Open Water," drawing in viewers into the only frightening dilemma of a pair of divers abandoned in the open sea. Through exchanges of stares and glare of the surveillance cam, the audience joins in the hardships and uncertainties of the man and woman, who go through the stages of bravado, hope, determination, comfort, doubt and fear. The two keep both their spouse fighting off doubts and battling side by side.

If "Big Brother" won't be just the spectacularly for at least a night, then "Open Water" might just keep you from a vacation on the beach—or a diving expedition—in the near future.

Questionable SC death verdict

IF not for the alert lawyers of the Public Attorney's Office, an agency of the government that provides free legal assistance to indigent litigants, Cesar Ilos would now be spending time in the death row of the National Penitentiary.

A Batangas regional trial court earlier found him guilty of raping his 11-year-old daughter and sentenced him to death. Seven out of 14 justices of the Supreme Court eventually affirm the lower court's decision. The other seven justices who did not participate in the proceedings were on official travel.

Only on member of the tribunal rendering a dissenting opinion, the court reversed on a lawyer handling a case of this nature will be to file a motion for reconsideration requesting the new lawyer reached based on the records of the case, and then keep on fingers crossed, hoping that his request will receive favorable treatment from the justices.

It's really a shot in the dark because it is common knowledge in the legal circles that the justices rarely, if ever, change their minds in the appreciation of the facts in death penalty cases. They have a tendency to rely on the conclusion in the review of judgments that spell the difference between life and death of a person accused of a capital crime.

This heavyweight says it often results in the reason for the delay in the resolution of death penalty cases. The tribunal would rather err on the side of caution than hastily affirm a conviction whose effects would be irreversible once implemented.

Review

The PAO lawyers were against the grain of tradition in the handling of cases that have been "unanimously" decided by the highest court of the land. Unimpressed by the tribunal's affirmation of the lower court's conclusion of the facts, they reviewed the case records with a fine-tooth comb.

In trial practice, gut feeling, or a sense that something is wrong somewhere, plays a major role in a lawyer's evaluation of decisions that are adverse to his client's interests. Common experience has that truth, except in the lawyer's mind aware of more than occasionally adverse lower-court decisions is judge's reversed on appeal.

There is something in the way the decision is written or the conclusions were reached that makes the alarm bells in the lawyer's mind ring. When this happens, the lawyer usually is consumed with his colleagues to find out if he missed an important point in the case.

The possibility of overlooking a significant item in the appeal is understandable. After handling a case for years, lawyers tend to examine certain items or be influenced by the careers that may have happened in the course of the trial. Thus, it is common practice in law offices for fresh lawyers' eyes to take a second look at court documents prepared by their colleagues to make sure all aspects of the case are covered.

The PAO lawyers assigned to Ilos's case resolved their heads together and, lingo! they found an issue that would justify asking the Supreme Court to reconsider its decision affirming the lower court's conviction of their client. Attorneys in our law tribunal had the required quorum (when it is deliberated and voted on) in this case.

Quorum

The tribunal consists of 14 associate justices and one chief justice, or a total of 15 members. When there is a full complement of justices and they were on hand to review death penalty cases, the quorum (or the number of justices who should be in the session before it could validly decide) would be eight or "50 percent plus one" of the entire membership.

If there is no quorum, the vote of a majority of those present constitutes a valid act of the court. For example, if ten of nine justices present, six voted to affirm a death sentence, five would against and one abstained, the decision of the six justices would be considered the court's official action on the case.

At the time the tribunal deliberated on Ilos's case in 2002, it had only 14 members. Justice Santiago Kapunan had just retired then and President Macapagal-Arroyo had not yet appointed his replacement.

For some quarters, the question of what constitutes a quorum when the tribunal has only 14 sitting justices did not cross the mind of the seven justices who voted in the case, their respective staff and the court official who takes a final look at the decisions before they are released to the public.

When the tribunal overlooked, the PAO lawyers were able to spot. Considering their hourly workload, that item could have been entirely planned over or missed, and the lawyers cannot be faulted for that mistake. The fact that they were is, mind the other equally important issues involved to be raise, shows their professionalism and dedication to the cause of their indigent clients. Their commitment to people who cannot afford to pay for legal services.

Re-deliberation

Since the PAO raised a valid point, the tribunal decided to recall its action on Ilos's case and take a second look on the issues of whether it had a quorum at the time it voted or affirm the appealed decision.

In what looked like it have saving grace, the high court ruled that the Constitution does not spell out the number of justices required to be present to constitute a quorum when they hear and decide, and that the records of the 1986 Constitutional Commission are silent on what the quorum should be when it has only 14 members.

The justices reasoned that the constitution is, it ignores the fact that the tribunal has used for the past the standard definition of quorum—50 percent plus one—in determining the validity of decisions of actions taken by subaltern bodies or agencies in the government and private sector. Also, a cursory review of its previous decisions shows that it observes the "50 percent plus one" rule when it deliberates on cases either en banc or in divisions of sitting.

The smaller membership of the tribunal by issue of quorum in Ilos's case will be difficult to explain to the convicted's relatives or the people languishing in death row. Because the Constitution gave the justices life and death powers over the men and women in our country who have committed capital crimes, the people expect them to issue no cause unexplained or an question enumerated when they review death penalty cases.

The PAO lawyers should be commended for bringing to the forefront an issue that reflects deep into the integrity of our system of justice for the ill-privileged citizens.

Messages for young women

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"SEXY your typical girlie show" a love performers of "SK (Respect, Relax, Respond)" describe the new show, which will, they promise, "unlock" women's issues, such as relationships, pregnancy, working hearts, self-confidence, sex and infidelity, and—all in a big interesting manner."

Publicity material for "SK" proudly proclaim it to be "a spin-off of a highly popular Malaysian show" of the same name and title. When their sketch turned out that the Malaysian show was in itself inspired by a local TV show called "SOS," produced by Lisa Simon-Villeda Girls.

Marina Malcolm had seven episodes of "SOS" under her belt when she left the show to pursue graduate studies in Canada. Her self-proclaimed "mission" seems firmly to do with the feminist point of view, having a underscore hotel at Manila Lounge. She then joined production house Viva Entertainment, which was looking to create a show with the same theme and intent, though of course, given Malaysia's conservative politics and attitudes on reproductive health, "SK" would steer clear issues which the law questions and still remain, nevertheless, the learning of "SK" is that Lisa Lando Jacinto and GGI's director Ida Iargas were invited to make Lounge as special guests.

With the Philippine version of "SK" proudly proclaiming its ties to the Malaysian show, and fully appreciative of a matter of feminine hygiene products, I can only wonder if the third location will be an even more sensual—even lesbian—of the original. "SOS," to counter all the recognition it received, and the controversies it managed to stir up in male audience, was eventually cancelled due to lack of advertising support, mainly because, I suppose, advertisers were uncomfortable with its sensitive—and sensual—treatment of women.

Because young women are in constant need of positive images and messages about themselves, their relationships and their sexuality, I can only wish the new "SK" all the best. But I also hope we will not get our fervent wish that the show will satisfy our insatiable sex and find the will to support truly groundbreaking productions like "SOS" was. I thought then and I think now that the fate of "SOS" was a loss not just for its producers, but for the entire young female Filipino audience still in

Populism and the fiscal crisis

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

ONE recurring observation that Rep. Joey Salceda, chairman of the committee on ways and means of the House of Representatives, often hears in his travels from voters takes the form of a question: "Tol, why is it that the power sector seems much closer to the people than, from whence' make their bills for the price of two clothing depends on methods of which these voters have no control? Why is it that Raines' hospital' PPA that does have access to—say the PPC?" the answer "The initial of the PPA may be easy to the people eventually pay for the electricity they consume," Salceda explains.

The key word is "populist." It is a term that has been used repeatedly in many analyses that try to explain the political issues of our economic problems. Its connotation is negative, which is understandable in the light of the events. One wonders what its opposite is. Anti-people?

In the context in which Salceda uses it, "populist" refers to something that aims to please the people in the short term in order to gain political support, but whose long-term effects will be people's economic interests. A populist decision therefore is one that is made out of political opportunism, and without regard for its economic and social consequences. The term is often associated with the kind of politics we have had in this country in another kind possible given the nation's political history and its economic situation.

The classical illustration in populist politics, of course, is the decision to introduce subsidies when the system for power takes place without international channels and under legislation and accepted rules. The Philippines had this experience in national politics in the 1960s and 1970s when many of our people participated in it in only in a marginal way. Salceda explained the people's entrenchment against the cigarette and sugar taxes to economics, to say the least, an overdose of populist politics in the nation. The experiment is a replica of many failed initiatives in the Third World, notably in Latin America.

When Cory Aquino took the presidency in 1986—in the wake of a people power uprising, she could no ignore the diverse popular movements that brought her to power. This was a consistency that was deeply suspicious of politicians. Even if the wisdom of a market power plant was arguable on technical grounds, the House Committee on Power (Cope) was right in the opinion of all the rest of the Marcos regime. The new government had little choice but to abandon it. The only issue more powerful than the people's distrust of politicians was America's unconditional support for the Aquino government. Similarly, the public benefits that demanded to be paid. And so on continue to pay them.

Resulting from the anti-corporate, this extended big public projects like the nuclear plant, and favoring little money left to spend, the Aquino government relied away from infrastructure improvements. The result was the power crisis that Cory's successor, Fidel Ramos, tried to fix through the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira). The popular opposition drove the "populist" decision to continue to pay political dues.

Now

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to: [redacted]

Editor: Jaime F. Sarmiento Jr.

UP 11 plan: Can it keep RP afloat? (5)

THE DEBATE on why the Philippine economy is in bad shape and what should be done to fix it continues. Trade liberalization was not among the causes of the fiscal crisis that 31 professors at the University of the Philippines School of Economics identified in their paper "The Deepening Crisis: The Real Score on Deficits and the Public Debt" (Talk of the Town, Aug. 29).

Because of this omission, members of core government organizations claim the UP economists are selective in identifying the causes of the crisis. In their paper "The UP School of Economics report: Overdue, selective, not daring enough" (Talk of the Town, Sept. 5), Waldes Bello, Leidy Naopil and Ana Maria Nemenzo said customs collection declined from 5.6 percent of gross national product in the mid-1990s to 2.6 percent in 2002 because of the country's unilateral trade liberalization program.

To ease the debt problem, they proposed that the country's foreign creditors share the burden by loosening their terms.

The critique of the UP economists' paper did not sit well with six Ph.D. students at the UPSE. In "The Bello, et al. critique: Biased and economically unsound" (Talk of the Town, Sept. 19), the graduate students said the argument of their mentors' critics that customs revenues declined because of trade liberalization was a case of *post hoc, ergo propter hoc* fallacy. Just because liberalization happened before the fall in revenue effort doesn't mean that the former caused the latter. The Ph.D. students also pointed out that the critics' proposal that the Philippines follow the example of Argentina, which gave 7 percent in 2003 subsidized by debt payments, was another example of the *post hoc, ergo propter hoc* fallacy.

Responding to the critique of their critique, Bello, Naopil and Nemenzo claim that the position of the UPSE students on trade liberalization and debt management is untenable. Amado Gat Inciong, for his part, contends that the graduate students' views on trade liberalization are colored by a deficit in their knowledge of the country's economic history.

As the debate rages, Talk of the Town continues to receive commentaries on the fiscal crisis, including that of Dr. Wilhelmy M. Villegas' "Fiscal crisis and the neo-colonial state (UP group's prescription will make Filipinos poorer)," which this section will run along with another article in the same issue to help put the crisis in context.

A prescription for crisis: Comments on the UP School of Economics response

By Walden Bello, Lidy Naopil, and Ana Maria Nemenzo

THE contributions to the debate on the fiscal crisis by the UP School of Economics professors is unfortunate (Talk of the Town, Sept. 19). Unfortunately, the positions they take in rebutting our arguments are easily untenable.

First, their device double on our claim that trade liberalization is a major cause of the fiscal crisis. Second, they argue that trade liberalization has led to macroeconomic stability. Third, they argue that while the foreign debt service is very serious, there is little we can do about it.

On the first point, we simply contradicted ourselves. The UP economists have the data. "It is transparent," they write, "to assert that tariff reduction should lead to a corresponding decrease in customs collections ... It did, and dramatically."

Radical program

On the second side, the trade liberalization that started with Executive Order 264—which planned to, beginning 1986, a radical program to unilaterally reduce all tariffs to ten-to-five percent by 2000—rendered the radically downward customs collections to zero-three percent of nine.

In 1998-2003, customs collections of import duties plunged from 194.4 billion to 146 billion. In 1998-2003, while the value of imports grew by 41.1 percent, customs collections of import duties declined by 35.7 percent; imports rose from 826.5 billion in 1998 to 1,164.8 billion in 2003, but import duties fell from 194.4 billion to 146.4 billion (See Table).

As a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP), total customs collections declined from 3.1 percent (actual collection 3.1 percent of 2.8 in 2003 to 2.3 percent in 2004). Thus, the figures show that total tax effort also declined to 13.9% in 2003, but they are down to 13.4% in 2004. If we consider that 2004 was accounted for by tariff reduction.

Probably, the best evidence of bourgeois economic ascendancy is provided by economists Clarissa Pascual of the Labor Education and Research Network, who finds that total bourgeois revenue rose from 956 billion in 1998 to 1,938 billion in 2003, averaging 2.4 percent of GDP for this period.

Mind-boggling

These are magnitudes that are, to say the least, simply "mind-boggling." These are the magnitudes that led former Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho to declare in a television interview: "The severe deterioration of fiscal performance from the mid-1990's could be attributed to aggressive tariff reduction."

The UP economists who fall back on a second line of defense, which is to paint Professor Bert Hofman during a recent television appearance that while radical tariff liberalization may have reduced government revenues, it contributed to arresting inflation owing to cheaper goods flowing in, thus bringing down investment costs (sic).

No empirical evidence

There is no empirical evidence to back up the tariff liberalization-as-stabilization claim, for there is a lot of evidence that is indicted to the contrary. Investment, again, is on the slide, the two periods episodes of tariff liberalization (1981-1985 and 1998-2003, spanning a total of eight years, were accompanied by rising, not falling unemployment. The number of migrant overseas workers, the social reduction program representative-in-job creation, abroad."

Radical tariff liberalization has not only contributed to an escalation of the unemployment crisis, it has been a source damage to our agricultural and industrial producers, a great many of whom have been driven to bankruptcy.

A glimpse into the depth of the wreckage that trade-induced radical tariff liberalization is provided by the recent report of a government review committee coordinated under Executive Order 241 to review tariff rates.

Casualties

In the end, the committee—composed of people with no discernible bias for protection, mind you—was forced to recommend raising tariffs on 327 of 1,371 basically produced goods owing to overwhelming evidence that they had been damaged by unfair competition from imports. The list of industries affected by the increase in paper products, textiles, ceramics, rubber products, furniture and fixtures, petrochemicals, beverage, wood, shoes, petroleum oils, drinking and tobacco, fish products.

One of the industries most affected by the tariff cuts as well as the abuse of duty free privileges is the textile industry, which has shrunk from 200 firms in the 1970s to now under 15 to 16 today, according to unorganized. "There's an uneven implementation of trade liberalization, which tries to cut dead-ended sectors with the result that "it has killed the sector for manufacturers."

Turning to the expenditure side of the debate, the UP graduate students simply repeat their teachers' mind-block, viz., foreign debt repayments are bleeding the economy, but the latter is also spurring growth in the long run. As Professor Isidro Montes said recently, "We have been overdone in terms. We should have done something 17 years ago. We should have done it gradually to give time for adjustment."

Debt renegotiation

We don't need to do anything drastic with our creditors because we are not yet in Argentina's situation, they say. But, as we have said repeatedly, we believe that the time to do something drastic now is not in the aftermath of negotiation, we will end up very much like Argentina and be forced to default and/or unilaterally cut debt repayments to Globo Hahns, former National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) chief, will eat up 30 percent of government revenues. The ratio could be reduced to one-one 60 percent in 2008.

Another way of looking at this is that in order to enable the government to keep functioning, we must resort to borrowing from foreign and local creditors. In order to borrow on our debt-servicing. Between one-tenth down, the figure, underlined one thing, we are essentially back where we were in the early 1980s, reliable to borrow money to borrow money to increasingly disadvantageous terms to pay off old debts.

Unsolvable

And the idea of rescheduling is less appealing. Interest payments would increase the UP economists' budgets, and the combination of a peaking payments schedule and declining revenues has soon push debt above the 80-percent mark, which is the point where debt becomes too. To quote: to the nothing new about international debt is a powerful to bring about the very bankruptcy and default that the UP economists hope to avoid.

Paralysis

The collective paralysis at the UP School of Economics is partly due to a gross misreading of the nature of the issues. There is also a great aversion in the world's financial center that financial crises promise to be even more disruptive today because and there is therefore, an urgent need to devise mechanisms to deal with such crises as the Argentine default.

One of the ideas that has been associated the economist is the recent Dubai Terrorism Mechanism (DMM) that would allow countries in the throes of or entering a financial crisis like the Philippines to freeze or reduce their repayments with full legal protection as well as immunity from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) while they undergo an orderly restructuring without fear of creditor reprisal.

Proposal

Surprisingly, in an interview on election Deputy Director of the IMF Asia Division of the United States has become the main proponent of this idea, though the Bush administration continues to reject it.

The proposal to introduce in order to support the current IDMM proposal (which we feel has serious flaws and is still inadequate for other reasons) by dealing with financial crises but is implicit that the new crises in another Argentina, and the Philippines must capitalize on this moment to push for solutions to our problems.

Imports and Customs Collections : 1998-2003

Year	Imports (in millions of US dollars)	Customs duties (in millions of pesos)
1998	36,826	64,431
1999	32,427	62,427
1997	35,206	44,001
1998	29,603	41,347
1999	30,119	42,486
2000	34,448	44,434
2001	30,192	38,033
2002	31,427	38,341
2003	33,442	41,414

SOURCE: BUREAU OF CUSTOMS, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE

A deficit in history?

By Amado Gat Inciong

COULD it be due to an acute deficit in history? I mean the question becomes, in "The Bello, et al. critique, Biased and economically unsound" (Talk of the Town, Sept. 19) of University of the Philippines School of Economics (UPSE) Ph.D. students' comment.

"... The aims of trade liberalization were to reduce the overall level of tariffs, as well as their dispersion to reduce the anti-export bias of protection, improve the competitiveness of domestic industry, which had been severely battered by decades of protection."

Domestic industry "had been battered by decades of protection?" The UPSE Ph.D. students must have read the book of domestic industry in another country, not the Philippines! Be our own domestic industry has never been protected vis-à-vis the United States except during the Japanese occupation.

Surrender

Prior to 1909, our colonial masters simply did with our domestic economy what they wanted. In 1909, Washington was able to establish our economic relations with the United States by ensuring the Payne Aldrich Act. This act established free trade between the United States and the Philippines. Philippine products, mainly cigars, sugar and coconut products, entered the United States duty free, while American products, manufactured goods freely entered the Philippines. Philippine sugar, cigars and coconut products were to be quotas.

As a result, we became dependent upon the US for manufactured goods and our sugar, tobacco and other handicraft, who thereby received protective quotas. Because American's dependable political and economic arrangements in the Philippines.

Free trade under the Payne-Aldrich Act of 1909 prevailed until it was replaced by the Bell Trade Act in 1946, the year the Philippines supposedly gained independence.

The Bell Trade Act extended the life of RP-US laws made in effect during the Commonwealth period and in the operations of public utilities. From the American point of view parity was a real issue granted to Filipinos. Because, prior to independence, Americans had a monopoly on natural resources and public utilities.

In 1950, the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (UNECAFE) was established, like so many other institutions, like surrendering and interfering, the ECA extended the life of free trade until 1974, in the same sense, it expanded parity to cover all investments.

Free trade and parity were supposed to lapse with the expiration of the ECA in 1974. But as early as 1962, in exchange for a loan of $300 million, the Macapagal administration accepted World Bank-International Monetary Fund debt conditions designed to replace the ECA. Among others, these conditions were devalued and devaluation, which effectively ended the right to own under the law of Philippine-owned import substitution industries established from 1950-1961.

Exchange controls

Increased during the 1950s as the measure of Philippine import and exchange controls did not affect American investors as well as corporate-protected doing business in the Philippines because, under the Bell Trade Act and, since 1956, under the ECA, they enjoyed the protection of free trade and parity. So, other words, what had the same rights as Filipinos in the economy. By the Republic of their supervisory in capital, technology and economies, they enjoyed decisive advantages over Filipinos.

When Declared Marcos became president in 1965, he initially pursued decreased and devaluation reluctantly. But during his second term, especially under martial law, he implemented economic and real devaluation to fulfill his function beholden to the WB-IMF were deployed in key economic posts in government.

The UPSE were introduced, on demands of imposed terms, to place the import substitution industrialization, tariff reductions, tariffs increases—export-oriented strategy of development were adopted. The floating rate system was introduced and a series of devaluations ensued, increasing debt service was increased. In exchange Washington literally bombarded the Marcos regime, that the country's debt reached $26 billion at the close of Marcos' rule.

The export of the ECA in 1974 was a non-issue because no free trade and parity provisions had been replaced by the WB-IMF debt conditions. Our economy to the European Board economies of the World Trade Organization in 1995 incorporated these conditions.

Privatization

Our country's increased globalization under which the annual sovereignty effectively resides in the market, no longer in the people and liberal-democratic institutions, privatization, and (now) playing field business, no matter what the Constitution says, sovereign assumptions.

In the context of history, how can we talk about "decision of government"?

It seems obvious since the teaching of history, which has been sidelined in the UP curriculum, was removed as a ball. Backpedal subject.

(Amado Gat Inciong is a former labor undersecretary.)

Across the NATION

Army withdraws from ex-guerrilla camp

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The military has already completed its pullout from the Sultok complex, Southern Command Chief Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga announced yesterday.

The pullout of government troops from the former lair of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Pikit, North Cotabato and Pagalungan, Maguindanao, was part of the conditions that the rebel group had given before it resumes negotiating with the government.

Mathieu Jarez is occupying the area since its fall during the government's 2002 all-out war.

"The Philippine government has pulled out its troops in accordance with an agreement reached with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front during the 5th Exploratory Talks held in Malaysia last February," Senga said.

He said the pullout started on Sept. 20 and was completed Wednesday.

Senga said the Marines, under Col. Ben Dolorfino of the 2nd Marine Brigade, were already deployed to the premises of Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur.

With the pullout of the Marines, Senga said he ordered the Army's 602nd Infantry Brigade to provide security for government personnel undertaking the construction of the "Tulay ng Bayanihan Project" in Kabasalan.

"A joint GRP/MILF ceasefire monitoring office was also established in Barangay Bagoinged (in Pikit) to monitor and coordinate all ceasefire matters and issues pertaining to the peace process," he said.

"We are doing it in good faith," Senga said of the pullout.

The MILF said it was happy with the latest development and hopes that the repositioning of troops would further strengthen the ceasefire so that the peace process could smoothly move forward.

Kuala Lumpur, which has been brokering the negotiations, had already sent an advance team of international monitors to oversee the truce.

The peace talks could begin next month according to the government and the MILF although Malaysia has yet to set a definite date.

Mohagatay was optimistic that a final peace agreement could be signed with the whole affair the next few months.

Meanwhile, the military said it would not insist on Davao City as venue of next year's Balikatan exercises between American and Filipino troops, according to Senga.

Earlier, Davao City officials including Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, said they would vigorously oppose the holding of the war games there.

On Wednesday, some 300 Davao village chairs trooped to the city's bongbong Pinoy and said passed a resolution opposing the conduct of the Balikatan in their city.

The latest were the Balikatan in Davao was fueled by a statement issued by foreign Affairs Undersecretary Antonio Parades II that the city could be next venue of the war games.

"I respect the opinion of Davao, that's his prerogative," Senga said of the lawyer. Julie S. Alipala and Agnes Z. Arnaiz, *PDI* Mindanao Bureau

PG ARROYO swears into office her new adviser for new government centers, former Gov. Rodolfo del Rosario. [illegible]

GMA names ex-governor gov't centers adviser

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has created the Office of the Presidential Adviser for New Government Centers and appointed ex-Gov. Rodolfo del Rosario of Davao del Norte to head it.

"One of the declared priorities of the government is the promotion of regional development and the decentralization of governmental departments and agencies through the transfer and establishment of new government centers outside Metro Manila," Ms Arroyo said in Executive Order No. 532 creating the new office.

Del Rosario, a management and development planning expert who will hold the position with a cabinet rank, said in a statement he would already start for government centers outside Metro Manila.

He said priority would be "established government owned buildings and facilities."

So far, the President has ordered the transfer of the Department of Tourism to Cebu City, the Department of Agriculture to Davao City, Department of Agrarian Reform in Iloilo City, and the Department of Transportation and Communications to Angeles City.

Del Rosario's task includes ensuring that support facilities are available for the new government centers.

He would also facilitate government funding for local development plans and projects such as farm-to-market roads, irrigation facilities, post harvest facilities and other infrastructures.

1,286 cops in Mindanao have no firearms

DAVAO CITY—A large number of police officers in Southern Mindanao have no firearms, according to an inventory conducted by the regional police office.

Chief Supt. Silmen Dizon, regional police chief, said during the inventory conducted last week, it was found that about 27 percent of the region's 4,750 police personnel do not have government issued firearms.

"This would show that the region's police force is lacking in long and short firearms," Dizon told reporters here.

Speaking to armed soldiers, Dizon said there are 1,286 police officers who have yet to receive firearms.

He said the Philippine National Police headquarters has promised to ship 150 rifles and pistols to Southern Mindanao but these are still not enough.

With the government's campaign against terrorism, Dizon sought to allay fears that the region's police command could not possibly provide adequate response. Anthony S. Alfado, *PDI* Mindanao Bureau

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PHILIPPINE DERMATOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Dermatologists' Concerns and Challenge

Today, there is an alarming, unabated proliferation of "skin-clinics," owners of which boldly and misleadingly call themselves "dermatologists." Several of these establishments are actually cosmetic parlors, while others are manned by physicians who are self-proclaimed dermatologists. Are they really legitimate dermatologists? Dermatologists are licensed medical doctors who have undergone 3 years of training on the science of dermatology which includes diagnosis and medical and surgical management of disorders of the skin, hair and nails. Mere attendance in seminars, workshops or conventions, both locally or abroad, without the basic three-year dermatology training is certainly not enough to make one a dermatologist.

In the country, the Philippine Dermatological Society (PDS) is the only recognized accrediting body for dermatological training. It is likewise the **only** society recognized by the Philippine Medical Association for dermatology. Now, fifty two (52) years in existence, it has pioneered and brought dermatology to high distinction in the Philippines. Currently, it has a total membership of more than six hundred qualified dermatologists many of whom have obtained further training and recognition abroad. The PDS is a member of the International League of Dermatological Societies and the League of ASEAN Dermatological Societies.

We, therefore, warn the public to be careful in choosing to whom you will entrust your skin.

PDS Secretariat
Rm. 1012 South Tower, Cathedral Heights Bldg. St. Luke's Medical Center, E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City, Philippines 1135
Tel. No. (632) 7230101 loc. 3010 • Telefax No. (632) 7217008 • Email: pds@pacific.net.ph • Website: www.pds.org.ph

'Angels in America' tops Emmy winners

'EK WINK up bright and early last Monday morning to catch the live satellite telecast of the 56th Emmy awards for USTV. The show was a combination of time-filler acceptance speeches and comic digs—and sometimes a combination of both.

Take **Meryl Streep**'s acceptance speech for her award as the best lead actress in a miniseries ("Angels in America"). She started off much seriously. ("There are some days when you think I'm overserved") then let loose with a tension-filled ("But not tonight!").

The audience loved her. They were even more delighted when she took a playful dig at her co-nominee, **Emma Thompson**, who she said "still hold a grudge (for not winning) for the rest of her life. Best wishes!"

Only Meryl Streep could have pulled off that outrageous combination of the serious and the comic, and her fellow stars cheered her on.

Al Pacino wasted no facts. When he won as best lead actor in a miniseries, again for "Angels in America," he started off by thanking Our Blessed Mother, who had won an award earlier and had gone to great lengths to express her gratitude, had "underwent speech."

Well, Our playful dig didn't go over well at all. So, with Pacino's ego on his face, a glum Pacino cut his losses and concluded his acceptance speech in quick fit in his mind.

Speaking of "Angels in America," the miniseries based on **Tony Kushner**'s acclaimed stage play about AIDS teamed out to be the Emmy's biggest winner, with other trophies going to Kushner, director **Mike Nichols** and various other people in the show.

When the smoke cleared, it turned out that the mini-series had set a new Emmy record for the most number of awards won (11) for any single program.

ETBOO! The audience loved her.

VIEWFINDER

Natalie L. Torres

This achievement was deemed even more remarkable because "Angels in America" isn't exactly prep for mind-numbed, and in fact thrusts viewers to confront some dark and unsettling issues that some of them would rather not think about.

Perhaps there is HBO for going against standard broadcasting "wisdom" and daring to produce and telecast such a monster, provocative drama series.

With the awards seen by six other "dark" productions, "The Sopranos," HBO ended up raking the 56th Emmy awards, to unanimous fear for a cable network to pull off—a point that wasn't lost on the "true" mainstream TV guys who watched the awards show.

Another unanticipated winner (for best comedy series) was "Arrested Development." The cast and writers were congratulated a lot of big cheers, and several noted that success on TV these days comes to those who dare.

Ironically, "The Sopranos," "Angels in America" and "Arrested Development" have yet to hit local TV screens, which are partial to less dicey big fare.

We were that an intrepid TV exec will strike up for that open soon—and we promise to support its daring programming move with our avid viewership.

Other "surprise" awards went to "The Amazing Race" for best reality competition, and to the struggly-cutest "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" for best variety series. These awards indicate that Emmy voters have learned to think out of the box.

On the other hand, the awards given to the stars of "departed" shows, like **Sarah Jessica Parker** ("Sex and the City") and **Kelsey Grammer** ("Frasier") were completely unexpected. Only "Friends" ended up out of the winners' circle among the popular series that have concluded their runs on the tube.

The 56th Emmy awards show was overlong and frequently stolid, but it had enough highlights to make it generally enjoyable.

The best quote of the night? Dict "most-f" goes to Tony Kushner, who dedicated his award to his life partner, **Mark**, whom he referred to as his husband: "One of these days, we can get a legal marriage license, and you can make an honest man out of me!"

The worst quote? Sarah Jessica Parker's acceptance speech, which went on and on like thanked everybody she could think of, including "the gunmen by who always have good words to say about me."

Parker was kidded about that ally wasn't by some stars who spoke after her—and with good reason!

'Don Quixote'

PRESS Spanish Festival for Culture and the Arts, organized by Gustavo Cervantes, presents the famous puppet troupe Bambalina in its staging of the Miguel de Cervantes classic, "Don Quixote," at the PCEC Plaza on Oct. 2. Call Instituto Cervantes at 528-1482 or visit its website, http://manila.cervantes.es.

'Concert at the Park'

ON SEPT 26, "Concert at the Park" celebrates National Tourism Week with performances from Bukaneg Lidtag Ensemble, Dance Troupe, the High School Dance Troupe, and the San Pedro High School Dance Troupe.

INQUIRER Mindanao

Child war victims need school building

By Maria Cecil Laguardia
Inquirer Correspondent

TALI was once a battlefield, make and all. It was a gruesome experience for us, much more for the children."

Justicia Tomas vividly shared the pains they endured for many years, especially during the government's "all-out" war against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in 2000.

Sangpot is a village in Balabagan, Maguindanao. The people are frustrated of their situation, but one can see how hopeful they are that someday, lasting peace and a more sustainable development would be achieved.

"Our village was where the soldiers camped as they did intense shelling of the rebellious groups. They could not go anywhere but to some of the strong shelters just across the other group," Tomas said.

The only school building in the village was destroyed. A village secretary said a bomb landed right smack in the building. "There were no classes anymore. Besides, the children had been brought to the evacuation centers."

The building is now roofless, its walls pockmarked with bullet holes, and tall grasses have already grown.

In June 2000, Tomas, who last earned a teaching degree from the Mindanao Capital College, volunteered to open the school and teach even without salary. "I pity the children," she said.

Now sizeable, later she was employed by the Department of Education.

But it was not the end of her problems. She had to make the makeshift building temporarily assigned as a school even roofless enough for the children. The structure was once a mosque.

"It was such a sacrifice. There were no complaints, district and school supervisor, "Tomas recalled.

Most of the time, the children would go to school as early as they could so they can occupy a few available chairs, she said. Those who do not have chairs either sit on the floor or stand on the side. "This is the cause of light among them—no chairs to sit on."

Handling a multigrade (children in two grades are combined) because class because of the shortage of teachers (one of Grades 1 and 2 is too difficult. She has to accommodate all of them, or else some of the children will be left out. The nearest school is two to three kilometers from the village.

"The children's interest under this condition will be jeopardized on the months. That is why I have to do my best to keep them learning. I label it as challenge," she said.

"In most cases, I buy the school supplies from my own money and provide some of the things of the children," Tomas said, stressing that she could not simply ignore their needs.

Her most urgent appeal is for a school to be built for the children. "My wish is a building that we can call a school for them. We need the facilities that would help them learn well as they deserve."

She said there have already sent village resolutions asking the Deped that a budget be allocated for the school but "until now nothing has been done."

Meanwhile, the children suffer.

Rescuing the Butuanon language

By Ramon Jaspe Sandoval
Butuan City

A YOUTH group called the Save Our Languages Through Federation (SolFed) is rising to the rescue of the ancient Butuanon language, which experts and observers say may be dead or dying.

For Dr. Jose Dakudao, SolFed national president, the Butuanon belongs to the category of moribund languages, one that is no longer being learned as the mother tongue by children in the current generation.

"The danger in a local language is the scenario for that matter are moribund, Dakudao says, because they are pushed to the margins by Tagalog and English.

"It is unfortunate that local people neglect to devote many their native tongue in favor of a so-called national language, in the process making them feel inferior or ashamed of their own selves," he said.

Dakudao, who is a neurosurgeon and language scholar from the University of the Philippines, believes that language is the soul of a nation, the foundation of a people's integrity. "If you take away the native language, the people's identity disintegrates, just like what is happening now," he said.

In Butuan, only a small segment of the population can speak the language. They are concentrated in Barangays Baan, Ampayon and Masao. They are the direct descendants of old Butuanon families who passed the language on to the young. But the youths complain: "When people do not use their native tongue in many, they ask us where we are from."

"It is ironic that Butuanons have become aliens in their own place of birth," said Dakudao, noting that this was happening in other parts of the country as well.

"We want the Butuanon language to be back in the mainstream consciousness of our people because it is a major part of our identity, our history, and colorful pre-colonial history," said Fr. Jesús Dumdia, a local historian and advisor of SolFed.

Dakudao and Amarilo noted not lost, hope. So their side are SolFed members who tap youth leaders in their barangays and schools.

Breakthroughs

To further deepen their interest and pride, and to heighten consciousness, Amarilo conducts Butuanon language interactions. SolFed also stays to radio programs.

"This is part of telling Bol ancestor, whether descendants or migrants, that we have a beautiful, authentic language of our own, and we must produce it," he said.

SolFed has also made exciting breakthroughs in the introduction of the original authentic, reverent dance Tinigan sa mga Christianos sacrifice and prayers. In short, semblances of the songs have been translated recently by authorities.

The city government has recognized SolFed's efforts and has vowed support. Through the Butuan Historical and Cultural Foundation and in partnership with the academe, it launched the "Speak Butuanon Week" during the city's founding anniversary.

The celebration's major activity was the initial cultural Butuanon language speaking contest. "We hope that this activity will generate the kind of pride and encourage more young people to know who they are," noted Greg Bautista-on, president of the foundation.

In the words of Amarilo's organization, what dances do the Butuanons and other local languages have that will be appreciated and practiced again? Can the people look at their native language as a native language to join with Tagalog, Cebuanos and English?

"People should be reoriented, and local language must be taught [again]—voluntary and effective it may take. Our political leaders and the academe must lead in this aspect. Even the Church has a big role to play well," Dakudao said.

And why Butuanon? Wisdom also enables the local people to gain their own political and economic destiny, according to the persons there were Bisaya tribes and not more concrete way through their respective languages." He wrote, added.

Palace defends mutineers

Opposition favors amnesty for Magdalo

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE OPPOSITION is in favor of granting amnesty to the Magdalo mutineers.

"Perhaps extending amnesty to rebel soldiers is better than declaring amnesty for our rebels. That should be given priority by the President," Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. (PDP-Laban) said yesterday in a statement.

The senator—who had earlier announced that the opposition would block any new taxes except the so-called "sin taxes"—said the young officers' apology provided "a golden opportunity" for President Macapagal-Arroyo to "put an end to divisiveness in the military and society as a whole.

"They must have realized how wrong it was to use extreme means in seeking redress of grievances. And we view this as a good beginning. But one move in changing policy for greater reconciliation," he said.

Pimentel said amnesty was the right course of action if the mutineers were really sincere in their repentance and if Ms Arroyo wanted to hasten the healing of the wounds of conflict.

But he pointed out that any amnesty proclamation was subject to ratification by Congress.

He said the other option was for the President to grant executive pardon to the Magdalo group. "But that will be possible only after official conviction," he said.

Former rebel amnesty was the right course of action if the mutineers were really sincere in their repentance and if Ms Arroyo wanted to hasten the healing of the wounds of conflict.

But he pointed out that any amnesty proclamation was subject to ratification by Congress.

He said the other option was for the President to grant executive pardon to the Magdalo group. "But that will be possible only after official conviction," he said.

[illegible] amnesty was not a legal matter but a political decision."

"I am their lawyer but what they did is outside the scope of my responsibility. So I cannot say whether I am or am not in favor of their decision. As of now, it has no effect on their cases," he said.

Won't do it again

In his "View from the Palace" weekly column, Bunye said the officers' letter of apology to the Armed had been prepared five weeks ago and sent to her through a civilian emissary.

But it was only last Wednesday that Ms Arroyo read the letter, Bunye said. This was apparently the same night that Ms Arroyo made an unannounced, unscheduled visit to the mutineers' detention camp in Fort Bonifacio.

"Everything seemed to fall into place. Just the day before, Sept. 21, anniversary of the declaration of martial law, the President convened the Cabinet and formally issued Proclamation [illegible] unity and reconciliation," Bunye said.

He described the scene at the Department of National Defense on Friday when Ms Arroyo faced the officers for the first time since last year's mutiny.

"The meeting came to their Commander in Chief said it all. They are sorry. They are willing to face the consequences of their act. They promise not to do it again," he said.

Bunye said the six officers were a "picture of contrition" both when they were presented to Ms Arroyo in the nationally televised event and in a subsequent closed-door meeting held at the office of Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr.

"What struck me was the fact that the six officers never asked for leniency for themselves. They were concerned their colleagues and co-mutineers face the full consequences of their action," he said.

He also said that while Ms Arroyo accepted the apology, the directed top military officials to "expedite court martial proceedings [that] have been stalled in the past due to the numerous peremptory challenges by defense counsel."

Bunye denied that a secret arrangement had been forged.

"There was no deal," he said in the radio interview. "What the President publicly said was in order that the pending case in the military court be expedited."

He said Ms Arroyo had been working to heal the deep divisions brought about by the communist and reactionary rebellions. She lifted the 33 remaining cases last year's mutiny and other partisan conflicts.

"The example of the Magdalo soldiers could pave the way [to unify and reconcile the]," he said.

Ms Arroyo flew yesterday to Legazpi, Albay, to meet with military officials.

And to prevent her enemies to look after the welfare of mutineers ones, she distributed 500 new pairs of combat boots to soldiers belonging to the 901st Infantry Brigade of the Army's 9th Infantry Division.

Here symbol boots was one of the rallying points of the Magdalo group who denounced the alleged massive corruption in the military.

Deception

Adnan said his closest did not know his of their plan. He said he had not spoken with them or his co-accused since the apology was made.

"I was only understand the apology as was earned with [the book] The Art of War' by Sun Tzu. The No. 1 rule there is deception," he said, adding without elaborating, that there was "deception" on both sides.

Adnan said it was possible that a deal had been forged. "They can't feel anyone. They can't just come out of the blue, flinking their teeth and principles in. They should know better than that," he said.

Asked to comment on reports that the apology was made because the officers were recommend for their followers' families, Adnan said many opposition leaders joked during martial law were apologized to backed down from their beliefs.

"That means [the 40 officers] don't have what it takes. Why did they [become the mutiny] in the first place?" said Adnan, who was himself imprisoned for over a year during martial law.

He added: "They have been called the best and brightest. But if that is the kind of soldiers we have, if they don't even know how to assess the current situation, we might as well abolish the Armed Forces and the Philippine Military Academy."

But he said he might reconsider his decision to quit as counsel depending "on whether they can explain in clear terms that they are not doing this following a puppet master."

Pointis, however, dismissed speculation that the officers had been coerced into apologizing or that a deal had been struck between them and the government.

"I have worked with them closely through many trying times. I believe they have the [intellect and maturity to arrive at a decision like this. I believe 100 percent that they arrived at this decision on their own. I am sure it was an intelligent and well thought-out decision," Pobido said.

Reconciliation

At Fort del Pilar in Baguio City the opposition leaders of the PMA praised the Magdalo officers.

Maj. Gen. Delfin Bañaga told reporters that the apology of the officers, most of them members of Maching Class of 1995, would facilitate conditions and "ease the reconciliation process."

Rear Vice Admiral Antonio de los Reyes, AFP vice chief of staff, did not touch on the matter when he spoke before 281 members of the PMA Baghsak Class of 2004 during their recognition day yesterday.

De los Reyes said Class 2004 would be the "internal mirrors" of an "internal reform" in the PMA corps of cadets and, ultimately, in the entire AFP.

"Internal reform involves defending what is known as the three-headed nemesis of the PMA—bullying, academic mediocrity and weakening of the honor code," he said, adding:

"I speak not only to the PMA Class of 2004 but to all cadets when I say that you must take on this challenge: absorb what is useful and abandon what is not. Wrong traditions have a way of tying us down. If we continue to cling to the unreasonable, unnecessary and harmful beliefs and practices, we will not move forward."

Bañaga said the two Reyes' speech did not touch on the actions and ideations of the Magdalo soldiers.

"I do not know if you can associate the [mutineers], with the way we are trained here at the academy. These are individuals who are responsible for their own actions," he said.

'Principled men'

In an interview with the Inquirer in Ilocos, Lapuz, the spokesperson of a major faction of the Sandiganbayan, which was accused of being the endless component of the failed mutiny, said it respected the decision of the six Magdalo officers.

But Renato Magtalas of the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. (PGBI) insisted that the group would never apologize to the actors and to other government bodies whom they had accused of graft and corruption.

Magtalas said the officers' apology proved that they were "principled men." With reports from Desiree Caluza, Phil Stoffers Lucas Barcas, Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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METRO BRIEFS

Police visibility works

PASIG police presence in Pasig and Marikina yielded holiday incidents one sunset (anyway, on Tuesday) as Typhoon Yoyong (Nanmadol) lifted, the Angat Dam announced, Friday afternoon. Superintendent Romeo Dumosmog said the Pasig City Jail in Caruncho, Rodriguez and Block Dormitories were caught in the act when they were spotted by patrolling police. Southern Police District chief Senior Supt. Rodolfo Lloren said the arrests were made at around 4:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Customs officer tells in NBI hands

FOR SEMBRANO P2,000 from anonymous tipster, a Bureau of Customs (BOC) supervisor was arrested by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI). Nabbed by agents of the NBI's Anti-Illegal Drug Division was Rodolfo Angelo Aguilar, who is assistant to the Customs intelligence and investigation Services (CIIS). Arrested along with him was Ma. Cristel Nike Fuentebella. Aguilar was arrested at around 2:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Atienza tells WPD: Arrest TMC cops

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza ordered the Western Police District (WPD) yesterday to arrest members of the entire Traffic Management Group (TMG).

No bail for slain boy's stepdad

By Leila B. Salaverria

JAIL for 3-year-old Clarence Sarabia, who was brutally murdered Tuesday last week, is now at hand.

Police arrested suspect Rene Carcuevas on Thursday and filed murder charges against him before the Manila Prosecutor's Office.

A prosecutor recommended no bail for Carcuevas, who allegedly stabbed the son of his live-in partner out of jealousy.

Carcuevas, a padyak driver, was arrested in Antipolo City after a manhunt that took police to the provinces, said Sr. Insp. Dominador Arevalo, homicide chief of the Western Police District.

According to Western Police District (WPD) DSUP Arlou de Quiroz, Carcuevas had a fight with Sarabia's mother, Marilyn, Tuesday.

De Quiroz said the fight prompted Marilyn to walk out of the house and leave her son in the care of Carcuevas.

Police had said that as Marilyn left, Carcuevas was heard threatening her that if she did not return, he would do something that would hurt both boy.

A few hours later, Carcuevas was seen also leaving the house.

Later, Marilyn's father, Blasito, decided to check up on his grandson and found the 3-year-old lying on the floor covered with a blanket.

The boy had stab wounds all over his body.

De Quiroz said WPD homicide investigators immediately went looking for Carcuevas.

Relatives, the next week in Las Piñas and Cavite to the homes of some of Carcuevas' relatives.

Having just joined the suspect, the policemen went to Pangasinan, where the suspect's relatives confirmed that he had been there as well but had just left.

The team then returned to Manila.

Shortly upon their return, police received information that Carcuevas had gone to Barangay San Jose, Antipolo. He was apprehended there by local policemen who have turned him over to WPD operatives.

Manila gov't sets controls on fast food waste disposal

By Tarra V. Quismundo

NOT for her wash that much bag.

In a step toward garbage segregation throughout the city, Manila's Department of Public Services (DPS) has begun implementing their "no segregation, no collection policy" among fast food chains in Manila.

"We expect them to serve as models so that the rest, including other restaurants and households, would follow suit," said DPS chief Rafael Simangan.

Since Sept. 8, the city has been collecting segregated garbage from more than 100 fast-standing food chain outlets in Manila, mainly in the Ermita, Malate, Binondo and Quiapo areas. Soon, the DPS would be tackling fast food chains inside malls.

The program is part of the DPS' implementation of Republic Act 9003, a law that requires **public and private offices**, households, schools, restaurants and hotels to have separate bins for biodegradable and **nonbiodegradable waste**.

Biodegradable wastes are naturally decomposing materials like leftover food and paper, while nonbiodegradable wastes include plastic cups and styrofoam containers.

Under the new DPS scheme, fast food outlets are asked to segregated their trash or the DPS would not collect their garbage.

License revocation

The agency could even recommend that the city revoke the fast food's plastic permit or have it closed down.

So far, more than 100 outlets of 18 fast food chains, including Wendy's, Shakey's, Mang Inasal, Chowking, Greenwich, Jollibee, Tokyo Tokyo, McDonald's, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Goldilocks Bakeshop owners, have agreed to implement the policy.

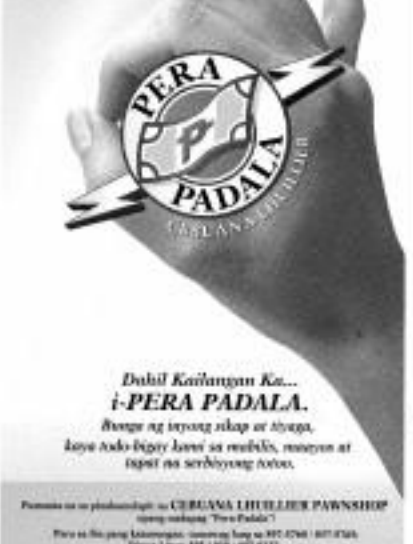
Among them, Simangan said, 1/10 percent compliance has been posted. The DPS hopes to enjoin more fast food chains to participate in the program in the coming weeks until it gets the more than 200 fast food outlets in Manila to comply.

"If you look at it, it would be more work because you have to add trucks and trips. But it was compliance with the law," said DPS spokesman division officer-in-charge Jesse Sarabia.

Before, said Sarabiano, scavengers collected trash from fast food outlets, and took mostly leftover food and trash that can be sold. They then left trash bags of styrofoam and plastic cups on street corners and sidewalks.

To implement the program, the DPS mainly deploys 12 trucks from General Waste Management to go to fastfood around each of the city's six districts and collect trash from fast food outlets from 9 p.m. to midnight. One truck collects biodegradable waste, and the other collects nonbiodegradable trash.

The trucks transport an average of almost 60 tons of fast food waste everyday to the temporary dump in Tondo.



Sharing life with street children

From page A1

ne-red with the Catholic charity group Caritas in France for 11 years before embarking on a mission of his own in Manila.

The 54-year-old native of Lille, France, is now based in a middle-class village in Makati and has forged links with the social welfare department, local government units and the NGO community.

Honors from France

He can speak Filipino and has adopted well to the environment, he said, he would probably be afraid to take a late night stroll down Pasay Road's red light district but not around his neighborhood in Barangay La Paz.

As Foundation president, Lemay oversees a regular staff of about 90 Filipinos. He has also attracted fellow French citizens and other foreigners to do volunteer work in the various centers.

Under his watch, Ma-Ala has also become a partner of the Department of Justice in the campaign against child abuse.

The life's work was honored by his country in 2001, when he was conferred the French Republic Human Rights Prize.

Christian roots

"I am from a Christian family," was his opening line when asked why he chose this line of work. His father was an engineer "who had helped many people, while my mother was very Catholic."

"I think I have had many blessings in my life which—in Jesus Christ told us to be grateful—I must now share."

If he sounds like a priest, that's because as early as 13 years old, he was already dreaming of becoming one. By his late teens, he was attending a seminary in Paris, studying theology, sociology and psychology.

But upon reaching his early 20s, "I said to myself that I love the girls too much that I cannot be a priest. Otherwise, I'll just be a bad priest," he smiled.

Boss, he has his own family.

Strange calling

Lemay first came to the Philippines in 1988 on assignment from a French NGO to do research on street children. This was after he had served Caritas for 11 years and finished his doctoral studies in sociology and social work in France.

DOMINIQUE LEMAY. Koya Dominic as she is also known, awaits the arrival of younger foundlings.—Philippine Caritas

The NGO's original plan was to have him stay in Manila for a couple of years "just to set up" a home for street children—after which he could return to France. Under this arrangement, the Comboni Missionaries, Religious Brothers, etc., with its core source located on Tell Avenue near De La Salle University.

He did return to France after two years, "but I went back to the Philippines because I felt I was not finishing what I had started." Answering this stronger calling led him to put up Mahanay in 1992 with the help of Filipino social workers.

Thanks to private donors, mostly from Europe, "specialized" foster homes have been built through the years to serve needs according to specific age brackets, gender, physical condition and personal circumstances.

Prisons and philanthropists

One center, called Haven Pods, takes in homeless children aged four to 14. The Brothers and Child Home offers refuge to teenage mothers in "crisis," while the Ella Rehabilitation caters for the mentally challenged.

Representing the humanitarian outfit Amnesty International that was founded by late novelist Princess Caroline will be hosting a private charity dinner on Oct. 23 to raise funds for the foundation.

Around 400 philanthropists will be invited to the event to be held at the Shangri-La Hotel Manila in Makati City. It will feature an Enzo Sotto fashion show and a mini-concert by Sitsam children.

Crusade without end

"You have to be available to the people," Lemay said, when asked how he had managed to draw sponsors to keep his foundation going, a feat that other welfare groups would envy.

"You have to meet them and give them regular reports about what you're doing," he said. "They have to know exactly where the money went. It's always important to keep in touch (with donors) and say thank you even for a small amount—because tomorrow it may be bigger."

Lemay also stressed that Mahanay has helped some 7,000 street children and distressed minors since its founding.

Its 12 facilities currently shelter around 300 individuals, and run a wide range of services from education and medical treatment to psychological counseling, skills training and job placement.

He noted with alarm, however, that More Manalo's street children were not only multiplying in number and their tactics in order to survive—but that "they're getting younger."

But Lemay doesn't see himself getting tired doing what appears to be a never-ending crusade to comfort the most vulnerable victims of poverty. "I can live my vision now and that means to share my life with others," he said.

"How many people can do that."

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Girl pleads with NPA to free pa after 3 years

From page A1

three civilians in Barangay Dand Sino in Columbio, Sultan Kudarat.

Rosemarie said she last heard from him a few weeks after his capture. The MILs (rivals under one Dionisio Dalidgad) then said they were ready to free Boots and civilians Hermenio Formigon, Rolando Maldoren and Regino Dandasan if the military and police would cease operations in their area.

(Four days, they have had to cope with no news, Rosemarie said.

She said she, her mother Aida and her elder sister Catherine had tried hard to live a normal life.

"But it was difficult for us," she said, adding that they had to move to Isabela from Mindoro last year "to get away from the pressure."

Loss of faith

Rosemarie said her mother, who had been fervently appealing to the government to work for her father's release, had "lost a little faith in the system."

"My mother says that (for people who dedicate their lives to serving the government) should also be given attention," she said, adding that her father had been with the Armed Forces since 1981.

When Rosemarie learned in August that the MILs in Columbio, her dad released Lt. Reynaldo Palabrica and SSg. Renaud Renarito, who had been captured in a March gun battle, she decided to take matters into her own hands.

Taking advantage of the school break, the pleasant, shaggy-maned at the University of Lasallette traveled for eight hours from Isabela to Metro Manila early this month to seek help from the government and non-governmental organizations.

"I had (one I) to him to work for his release," she said, saying her father had missed his many special occasions. She Catherine's college graduation.

Rosemarie said the experience of "losing" her father had affected her in ways she had never imagined.

UPADEANT Rosario in MPA captivity in September 2001.

No longer valedictorian

A consistent honor student in high school, she lost her standing as class valedictorian when her father went taken hostage.

"My father was one of the sending pillow all my medals and certificates and give all those to me on the school stage on my graduation day," she said, laughing quietly. "I guess everything went again under the day he disappeared."

Rosemarie wasted no appeal to President Macapagal-Arroyo to release her father and to the area where her father is being held to pave the way for his release.

"This will be the best birthday gift he will ever receive," she said.

In a letter sent on Sept. 16, the Rosario women begged the Arroyo to "take an active part in finding ways to release the head of our family in the soonest possible time."

"It is our utmost desire to be with him as soon as possible, or not later than Sept. 27, his birthday," they said. With a report from Dennis Pepa

Miriam . . .

From page A1

ore Santiago called the flock of which she's an elected member.

"We are creating a political system of (client) with money," Santiago said in response to Sabig, the College Association (Pasei) 5th annual Presidential Presidents Macapagal-Arroyo held here on Saturday.

Sulpicious Asian citizen should be the basis of moral regeneration in government, the senator told his audience of 500 people.

However, some of her colleagues practically bought their seats in the Senate, she said, referring P60 million to P100 million in campaign contributions "from criminal syndicates involved in smuggling, drug pushing and illegal gambling."

Santiago, however, did not name the politicians.

"The bulk of contributions come from criminal syndicates," she said, adding that those candidates had bought criminal money politics.

Thanks to the bird-generating scheme, even those with "ordinary resources" were able to make it to the Senate.

"Most of them are college dropouts and they're my colleagues because they bought their way to the Senate," she said.

The "wives" in the Senate are able to speak during the sessions because they have hired people to write scripts for them.

"Have you ever tried stand up on you, or making plans on any, moment sitting yourself into intelligent she or script up stuff into just listed who memorialize young Muslims talk. (Those unschooled senators, who don't know anything, are able to appear (themselves during session) because their staff give them scripts to read which they don't understand)," she said.

"That's the kind of Senate we have now. Those with money-ism," she said. "Even if you graduated nursing cum laude from the University of the Philippines...even if you're a relative of Albert Einstein, you won't win a seat if you don't have money."

Once money seems to rule over credibility, integrity and good intentions, Santiago suggested foregoing elections and building "political machines for (elected) positions" instead.

Closing the open forum (following her speech), the senator noted that because of the distorted values of politicians and ordinary Filipinos, the country needs a kind of leadership similar to Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew.

"Democratic instead of consensus-building—that's what's necessary now," she said.

In the light of the prevailing fiscal crisis, somebody in the audience suggested suspending Congress for two years.

Santiago not only agreed, she took the same step further: "Congress should be abolished—permanently."

Sunday BIZ
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

IOWAN MAKES IT IN RP

He worked 2 different jobs, and slept only 3 hours a day

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

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By Sandra Garcia
Contributor

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System on Rice Intensification . . .

From page B2

tillers, he observed. Did the grain is bigger. He predicts a 10 percent increase in their initial harvest this October using SRI methods.

Weeds

However, one snag of not flooding the paddies is the proliferation of weeds. Method's solution is not to use toxic herbicides but opt for eyesight mechanical weed-cutters.

In fact, both Philippine Greens and Eskimos are strong advocates of bio-organic farming, which they believe enhances the performance of IRC.

While SRI is adaptable to any rice variety or technology, the system works better when complemented with bio-organic farming.

The SRI process of restoring the soil is reinforced by the organic nutrients that compose (organic fertilizer) breeds.

Definitely, the steps for SRI are more tedious and require centralized and behavioral changes. Tambalo counters that farmers have to spend more hours in their fields to follow the SRI methods meticulously such as the weeding. But he says the methods are easy to learn and does not really burden the farmer too much since the technique becomes routine.

"Farmers are used to hard work. A few weeds and a couple of hours more under the sun should not stop us from improving our farming systems," he says.

He believes it does not need scientific doctoral courses farmers to adopt SRI and bio-organic methods because the positive results are so evident.

Only 20 members of Kalikasan started SRI in this cropping. He expects this number to ballooned to a hundred in the next crop.

With the support to that SRI could grow in the quiet-quiet strategy to saving the endangered Filipino Rice Terraces.

The longer gestational period of upland rice varieties (six months) is ideal for the optimum propagation of rice fillers under SRI.

Likewise, SRI could be adapted into the rice terraces without the chemical inputs that were behind its vanishing acquire.

Most tourism conservation experts believe that chemical agriculture destroys the natural ecosystem of the area, by polluting the irrigated streams and killing other animal species that normally thrive in the paddies.

There include shells, clams and silver fish species that are also harvested as food by the farmers.

SRI could raise rice production in the rice terraces without requiring the traditional rice varieties and refusing chemical inputs.

Despite its popularity and acceptance in Africa, Europe and other South East Asian countries, surprisingly the government has shied away from endorsing SRI in its rice production programs.

Manalo believes that this is influenced by the government's bias against agricultural methods and technology that do not require huge investments such as the promoted Hybrid Rice.

But fully hybrid rice program is founded by drawbacks that could become perpetually dangerous to the country's agricultural program.

Aside from being very expensive, the hybrid seeds are genetically produced to be planted in a single crop and cannot be propagated for the succeeding crop. Thus, farmers have to buy a new stock of seeds for the next cropping.

He also explained that hybrid Rice has a narrow genetic base, because it was bred primarily from a single tree strain originating from China.

On the other hand, pure rice varieties were harvested from a combination of several rice strains to produce the strongest, most resilient and productive seed.

While hybrid rice has indeed multiplied farm production, studies project that the greater fire in the drought cycle will from that makes it fragile and easily susceptible to pest and disease. While the massive campaign being done by DA is convinced the country's self-sufficient to hybrid rice farms, an unexpected and sudden pest could suddenly wipe out an entire year's national crop and spawn famine in the country.

The better alternative, therefore, is SRI.

But unfortunately, SRI's promotion is a killing affair considering of vested interests advertising being done mostly by committed advocates like Manalo.

"If we only had a million more, we could do a lot of wonders in popularizing SRI as a concept," he says.

Meanwhile, wondering, simple and natural, thousands seven of isolated rice fields of SRI is a reminder.

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Brigitte Glaser

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System on Rice Intensification: Ray of hope for farmers

By Teddy B. Bagasbas Jr
Contributor

THE AGRICULTURE Department's aggressive promotion of its new pet, the genetically engineered Hybrid Rice, and its voracious preference for chemical agriculture over low-input methods may have increased production yields.

But this modern technology has encumbered the cash-strapped farmers.

Farm incomes remain meager as the more-than-high cost of input plagued rice food producers.

Revolutionary

Plain, a revolutionary farming system offers farmers a more cost-effective way of agriculture without having to be weighted down by expensive seeds, pesticides and fertilizers. All it takes are a few simple methods and the age-old value of hard work.

Called the System of Rice Intensification or SRI, this farming methodology evolved from the land African country of Madagascar and has gained a few handy proponents all over the country.

One of them is Oliet Sirmula an organic-farmer in Gerona, who claims that SRI has significantly raised their yields in several local farms that have adopted the system.

Sirmula is head of Philippine Greens, a political advocacy group that has pushed a committee-lonely but valiant crusade to counter the government's multi-million efforts in advancing Hybrid Rice and other so-called Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), such as the Bt Corn.

Sirmula presented data from various studies showing that for a three-hectare SRI farm, a national average of 8.44 tons per hectare of rice crop was obtained.

"This yield is comparable to the achievement of Hybrid Rice which [it] claims boosted yields up to seven tons per hectare," Sirmula says.

Mutua experience

One such success story of SRI is the Mutua experience of Nueva Ecija.

Farmers of Barangay Maguinggang in the Science City of Muñoz began to embrace SRI the year through the advocacy and technical assistance of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM), a non-government organization promoting appropriate technology and rural development.

Under the umbrella of the Kalikasan Federation of Farmers in Northern Nueva Ecija, the farmers have established the SRI methods into their Ecological Sanitation (ECOSAN) project.

Joselito Tendero, president of the Federation, reveals that members of the association started an integrated farm project in 2003 by diversifying their farm production with backyard livestock and poultry and small fish ponds to complement their rice production.

The tactic started to pay dividends with increasing farm earnings and a steady supply of food from the backyard farm to sustain the family. One study executed by the group cites that rice aggravated by increasing cost of farm inputs.

When Tendero heard of a new farming method being piloted by PRRM and Philrice that was inexpensive and guaranteed better harvests, it was not difficult for him to persuade the federation members to experiment with SRI on several plots of their congenial and diversified farms.

The results have so far been positive and Tendero hopes that the expected harvest would further boost farm production in their area.

Despite the early success of SRI, only a few farmers in the Philippines have so far adopted the methodology with roughly 150 practitioners nationwide.

Sirmula believes one reason was that the basic strategies of SRI contradict the traditional, age-old planting practices of our farmers.

To begin with, transplanting starts at an earlier stage when the rice seed is around eight to 12 days old.

PETTY Division of Maguinggang, Science City of Muñoz, is located on the SRI's methodology in its rice field.

In conventional practice, farmers begin transplanting from the seedbed when the seed stock is 21 30-days-old.

He explains that this technique optimizes the development of the root system by preventing it from crowding that injury the roots or gives deeper into the ground.

He referred to the early transplanting as a "challenge to the young roots to toughen up."

Secondly, the SRI method calls for planting the seed at wider distances, 25 centimeters or more from each other in a square-like pattern.

The typical planting style has no geometric patterns and the seeds are bunched together.

Likewise contrary to belated methods, only one seed is planted at a time compared to a cluster of seeds in most farming practices.

Sirmula explains that the rationale for these methods is to strengthen the root system by opening the seeds further apart that maximizing competition for the soil nutrients.

Finally, perhaps the most radical and criminal SRI technique is to avoid continuous flooding of the rice fields once the seeds are planted, which is contrary to time-honored farming traditions.

Sirmula believes that flooding of the rice paddies restricts the roots' intake of oxygen and nutrients and thus results to growth.

Instead, SRI recommends keeping the paddies moist but not flooded to alternating inundation for six days, but then blocking water supply for the next two days.

"In SRI, the most immediate overall effect of the strengthening of the root system is the proliferation of more new tillers that, in turn, leads to a higher crop yield," he says.

Tendero reveals that SRI farms exhibited have an average count of 80 tillers compared to the normal 25-30 tillers in non-SRI fields. Aside from the proliferation of

TO PAGE B5

Sunday LIFESTYLE

JOHN MAXWELL

Prophet of leadership, dealer of hope

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JOHN C. Maxwell's transformation from pastor to globe-trotting motivational speaker was no epiphany. It was no accident. It started when he variety books about his faith, and completely stopped preaching them.

"They would say, 'My goodness, this is a pastor who leads people,'" he recalled during Playtime when he recently visited Manila.

During his two-day visit (his second), Maxwell gave a seminar-seminar on leadership at the Philippine International Convention Center, and spoke on teamwork to some 20,000 in Araneta Coliseum.

The day of the Playtime, Maxwell met with two presidents in the morning. He was with President Macapagal-Arroyo for 20 hours, and spent a little time with former President Fidel Ramos. He gave both copies of his book "Thinking for a Change," which reveals that the major difference between successful and unsuccessful people is how they think.

Maxwell has written over 39 books, and though they've been selling well, especially "The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership" and "The 17 Essential Qualities of a Team," listening to him is an altogether different experience.

PLAYTIME

By the Staff

What did you discuss with President Arroyo this morning?

I talked to her today about how I know this is a difficult time for the country and I wanted to encourage her, and encourage the people and try to help them understand. She's been reading my books for a few years. I gave her my newest book called "Today Matters." It's a very important book especially for young people. The book says successful people make important decisions early in their lives and they manage those decisions for the rest of their lives. The book helps you know what decisions to make early so you can manage them for the rest of your life. It's a very popular book in the United States to help people with their personal growth.

Do presidents ask you for advice on how to run their countries?

Sometimes they do. Sometimes they don't.

How did you gain your reputation as an authority on leadership?

What happens is, my books are read. So when I come, they already know about me. My books are in 33 different languages, so wherever I travel there are a lot of people who've already read my books.

When you go to different countries, are there variations in your lecture? Do you customize it and take into account local culture?

Yes, you customize depending on whom you are talking to, and in some countries I go to, I have to have a translator because they don't speak English. That takes twice as long because you're giving only half of the material out, because you're waiting [for it to be translated].

Which leaders have influenced your writing?

Probably the first person who influenced me was a fellow named Zig Ziglar. He's kind of a motivational speaker, and what I like about his writings is that they are simple. You can easily understand them and they are practical. And that's how my books are, too. My books are not complex. I like to put cookies on the lower shelf so everybody can have some. You know what I'm saying? I try to really simplify my writing so everybody can understand it and practice it. He was the first person to influence me and there were others who also influenced me.

Another is James Allen, who is a philosopher. And the other influencer that's been major in my life has been the Bible. In fact, I have taught on many leadership lessons out of the Bible but, four years ago, my publishers put out what they called the Maxwell Leadership Bible.

How do you deal with critics who say that you have a misguided approach in using Biblical figures in your writing?

They don't know what they're talking about. If anything I mean, you have to understand that historical facts of the characters in the Bible are very well-documented. I'm not saying everybody but the Biblical characters who exhibited leadership qualities are pretty amazing. In fact, I think what impressed me most about these characters is that they readily talked about their mistakes. They're human. They told it to God instead of trying to cover it. And I like that very much because leaders make mistakes, and leaders have to ask forgiveness. Leaders fail. We find a lot about a leader by how he overcomes his failures, how he bounces back.

Who are your favorite Biblical characters?

Prophet of leadership, dealer of hope

Sometimes leaders are slow in admitting mistakes because they don't want to bring insecurity to people. My feeling is that the people already know, and if you admit your failure or your shortcomings, you endear yourself to people more because they see you as human'

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

THREE

'Lansagin ang ibagsak!'

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando

NOBODY KNOWS, well-rehearsed actor and activist, blew into town until UP's Abby Alabastro for the launch of her book, *Sosi Sikreto*. Then landed every bit as I suspected he is—in full bloom and fighting form.

She went up to the table and, overwhelmed by the packed crowd that had come, said, "I feel like shouting, 'guerrilla complaint!' and she did. "Imperialism!" and the whole room thundered, "Burgis!"

In her speech, which was approved by topic (Lenato, Manobika navigated the fill for its current sing on them. "The US government has no right to make judgments on what happens in the Philippines. It is our own main enemy!"

Who killed Dr. Juan Escandor? Alam nilang (of course) Imelda but shall, escaped out his house and to their place stuffed his pockets heavily. Who killed Dr. Bobby de la Paz? (shot in his chest in Tarlac). Who killed Lilibeth Villariba? (tortured and raped in a military prison, later found dead from exposure with 3 gunshots). Who killed Francis Julaw? (student activist who disappeared in Southern Tagalog). Who assassinated Leon Alejandro? (university professor of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan). Who killed Dr. Lando Clarke? (labor leader abducted with his driver, later found dead in Bicol not with screwdriver stuffed in his mouth). How many the murderers of our people are not terrorists?

When the speech ended, this third-generation crop of leftists drowned Marcos-like with boos, jeers. Luis Jalandoni, head of the CPP-NDF who was there in person, was the only speaker. He acknowledged his wife, "Kumareng Connie," in the audience. What a gathering!

Women's place

The launching ended with another overlong setting of "Imperialismo...Burgis!" It reminded me that I was swept with nostalgia, back to late Marcos time in 1982, when the women's place was in the struggle. My friends, Jo Antolin, Sasha Capellan, activist Nilda de Leon and several other activists were on the floor of the Senate session hall, Nilda with her baby in her arms. We were painting banners with angry slogans of "Ibagsak!" this and "Lansagin" that, leading Manny Aquino to exclaim, "Good grief! Why don't you just paint 'Lansagin ang Ibagsak!' and get it over with?"

The only condition for the activists' use of my pad was that, On reserved my husband finished the one hour at the gate, all the banners drying on the railings or on the grass had to be collected out of sight, day or not. My husband was then a senior vice president of Manulife, which had been a favorite target of the Marcos front, the Legislative Labor was in power. So one, but we one, activists talked about Marcos (except to loaded tones).

Husbands' jobs were on the line and mates were always being picked up by the military. In it was a time of fear, of anger, and terror was there such a force! We marched in the streets in protest submissions, human rights violations (especially salvaging), the right to assembly, media repression, anti-labor laws, unemployment, the capitol of cheaper labor, the techno plant (which never materialized) and the ever-widening gap of poverty. The Manila Film Festival (or Manila Fighting Film Festival). On IBP- World Bank-bankrupting, colonial mentality, Statehood USA, incessant taxation, etc.

Welcome to activists

In Quezon City, the starting point of the rallies was the Welcome rotunda. Some friends like Sylvia Mercado, Sharon Ingalesi, more in law), Odette Abcarian, drug activist, and some others, one would come from my DC Chapter because I had a good school and served a deliberate network. We wondered whether the women of 1896—like Gregorio de Jesus and Gabriela Silang—too, were filled with excitement like we were and, to true Pinoy fashion, hassled before suffering forth to the mountains.

Perhaps it was much of being a corporate wife, of having to fit into a mold of dressing smartly, smelling moderate and talking shallow. I felt at home in the protest movement where the artists and writers were and the no-nuts and pretty, because they were real and pursued to be genuinely anything but a better life. Of the people, the left, which is close to you, and by for the most appropriate.

Heading a march, if we were lucky, were Jun "Ka Pepe" Medina, Lorenzo "Ka Toto" Tañada, Butch "Bill Bayan, or maybe "Elmo" Bagay. There was always danger in a rally. You could be picked up any time for any reason...and some just disappeared. The policemen often broke up rallies with a furious's hose or even tear gas and beat aggressive student leaders with truncheons. Once we overheard a policeman telling Chino Roces, while hosing him to the sidewalk, "Hito na po nanay kayo, nanay, kasi nag-aaral kayo sa kolehiyo."

On still another occasion, Dolores begged a chair from the guard of a building for the elderly Ka Toto to sit on. A French artist, last minute of seeing, the old man stood on it, flailing his fists and telling his own brothers to the rally in one of the most banal dispersals, Francisco "Soriong" and Primitivo Soriano's son, Fidel, was shot. Mr. Soriano was in all directions, looking for banners to hide in.

Battle queens

Our women's organization was called "Womb." Its supreme was Maria Gomez, who led one marches and never got tear-gassed because she was an disguised Samaritan. Womb was a spin-off from the first leftists headed by Nelia Sancho, erstwhile Miss Asia Pacific, so we were a band of battle moms led by beauty queens. Gabriela was originally formed by Sen. Nelia Sen Andres Lopez who, in our marching ears, was addressed responsibly in rallies by the loud Tess Lacuesta as "Examining Nicks."

The gentle Womb was answered by three members of the elite—Marina Pardo de Tavera, St. Christine Tan and Alicia de la Paz. The first chair, before Maria, was the dignified, white-haired Marina, doctor of PR agencies, whose brand was with the grandiosa. More progressive than other women of her time, she hosted our meetings in her spacious home in Inamanluan village—who could dare go and arrest Marina there?

Nelia's mother, Gabriela, was organized in 1983 by women's advocates Dr. C. Arriola, with Nelia Capellan and Gabi Villariba as Bonnie Pallaver' allies. It was envisioned as an umbrella organization for a variety of traditional women's groups—from housewives of poor communities to professionals like Ben. Zigas. The urgent need that was to support (not the step elections) for the conflict triumphant. Bonnie elections of 1984. Gabriela could not support the boycott, as its broad coalition included government people. Aquino, in 1984 WOMB Official for the District of Manila and Bonnie's vice-boss. Womb was governed by civil society, to middle-class concerns were different from those of Gabriela's main concerns—the urban and rural poor. (One of its later day chairwoman St. Mary John Manahan.)

I blame two hands

Like Gabriela, Womb was left of center, or stay be left, or left left, depending on where you stood. Since parliamentarians were adversely hurted according to their political leanings—incl. "Imelda left," "Cory left," "Doy left," "right of center"—or "Ina Joey" (National Democrats), "Tito Sotto" (Liberal Democrats) and "Lily Reyes" (Liberal Democrats). The extreme left was the underground CPP-NPA, the extreme right, the establishment. Everyone else and their hands were in between. (Somehow, Odette and I escaped classification; we were always just referred to as "progressives.")

The red flags were to Liwasang Bonifacio or Mendiola, the yellow flags marched to Ayala Avenue and converged at the Quezon Memorial Circle. Later in the day, the tired and sometimes wounded, a virtual sea of red and yellow banners fluttering in the breeze, from August Twenty-One Movement, with its long yellow horizontal streamers printed with Ninoy's face, always led the pack. Makati was where we would be dismissed with yellow confetti and the singing of Lupang Hinirang. Inside, running from the old buildings of Ayala, the Filipinos for once united for a common cause. It was enough to make you cry.

Abrupt rhetoric

The rhetoric of Womb and Gabriela, and the left in general, was downright awful. The protest banners and chants were: "Lansagin ang dumalo!" "Ipaglaban ang demokrasya!" "Patalsikin si Ferdinand!" "Ipit ang Amerikano!" The slogans were urban, humorless and repetitive, and they were always accompanied by the fists banging, the upraised arm and clenched fist, leading Odette Abcarian to dub it "leftish thetoric" since all you could see were armpits.

Obviously the leftish had to be deodorized. The truth had to come to the forehead of protest, but they forgot the language. The absence of the left combined with the discreet charm of four genuine nuns an appealing audience sucked.

Womb's debut was a fashion show called "Rite of the Native Fashion Show." Fashion and related industry made Womb.

Before each mass action we would meet at Manuela Pardo de Tavera's house, cooking pieces of tables and special events. There were at least two rallies a month. We met to discuss the most recent issue, compose a manifesto (always injecting a economic angle or two) and plan the next mass action. Special days were Women's Week in March, May 1 (Labor Day), June 12 (Independence Day), July 4 (Bill-Am Friendship Day), Aug. 21 (Ninoy Aquino was shot), Sept. 21 (declaration of Martial Law), Oct. 5 (Filipino Women's Day, or maybe Gabriela's birthday), Dec. 10 (Human Rights Day). Bad luck days called for full mobilization—meaning a huge march or event. The rest were ordinary rallies. Four activists disappear and the next day are marched a rally carrying their blown-up pictures. We protested the human rights violations and every other human rights violation.

Free costumes

There was some objection to the planned fashion show as being "Frivolous." But on March 8, 1985, a Tuesday, the "Day like other" was a big success—another feature was Fed to the rallies with paying guests. The overwhelming stars of the protest movement—Ka Pepe, Ka Toni and Ate, had the front seats.

We had asked designers Maggie Cordero, Inang Jarlaga, Tony Cabrera, Lauren Dagdag and Ben Farrales to create costumes for free. Some of those were sexist activists themselves, and happy enough to earn them, others were invited into it, the price of being our friends. Nina de Leonardia, a real life fashion director, was engaged for the show by magic, as usual, was assisted by the lovely Inez Veneracion.

Each Womb model represented an issue against the dictatorship. For instance, Ellen Tordesa in a costume painted to look like over 10 dollar million pesos bond to bond with her to the dying left dressed in PD 1081 (the repressive martial law decree that). Melissa Perez Sobio was the Positive Point that would put us in debt, complete with wedding veil headdress. Cigi Dee, but was Tourism—dressed in bathtowels in front had beaches and other sites painted on them. Ben Farrales's Imelda was a model Terno (or maybe it was a mosquito net—I forgot which). Maybe was Miss Terno to a suburb, and a rope around her neck. Stephen Cuenco and Lala Fabregas were current and super monopolies and their costumes were fronds and aquarium stalks and leaves. Sasha Capellan was a rotting corpse (appropriate materials as "Killfest Complex" (D. Gatmaitan and Nilda Cervantes missed. There were many more numbers.

The Ibagsak cape

I couldn't really quite dig our ideology; all I wanted was to work hard so that we would have a really good show. It was my breakthrough to becoming, in my amazing a theater producer—bold! The finale with Maria Cuenco brought the house down. She was modeling an Ismael recipe/Jacinto Manahan terno (where else was billed her king, king, and cape, it had the words "Ibagsak ang US Bases...ibagsak!" In full view of their huge audience with NGOs millionaires, we were cast! Everyone gasped. We thought Ninoy would move something and the military would break down the door and shoot us.

No other event of that period had so much media coverage. The press, like fearless Ma Eggie Aparicio, Ces Drilon and Rebecca de Jesus (Women's), always made protest actions seem glamorous, as did columnists Joaquin Bocaw, whose wife and all of our parliamentarians attended like a Who's Who. No guidance though, one still read classic leftists like Renato Constantino, Ding Lichauco Cocoi Hilao De Tong).

Women's groups, as well as male-female ones, grew in number. Aside from Womb and some others, there was Amihan, a grassroots organization led by Jessie Tirado. There were the women theatre: Dith Severino, Mariel Tolentino, Gila Mercados, Sha Del Dragon, Bing Rivas, Tingting Cojuangco, Nico Lee, Nicole Cajucom, Ching Escudero, the late Lourdes Whitaker of the Philippine Women's Center, Ging Reyes, Lourdes Benitez, Maring Sotto, Nene Diokno-Organization of Feminist, whose boundary spokes were Lorna Verano Paz, Estelita of Grandville, Filipina, Feminist Fellows' FACA (Philippine Action Educational Association) and Cielo Villaluna's TWP (Center for Women's Resources). Many Centers opened. Womb organizations in Baguio (Linda Lim and Helen Mandolebel), Central Luzon (Ailing Yuzon), and Mayang Dimasalang, Iloilo (Ailing Yap). Sin gan and Cebu.

The religious became Tanauag Mahalagan (St. Theresa's), later handled by Anne Ruffin, Ruben Ilo, Bebelakwad, Maria (Nanaipalan), Kadpawayan (Mayobenit), Spirit of Mandala (Hide Mendez), Josephine (or Auntie) De Joseph's. This expanded the ever-protesting left to more Pinoy circles like "Bonifacing ng[illegible], more, wives, mom, trade light, fight, fight, losing me afraid?" By this time, boasters there was no longer any doubt about the formidable force of the middle-class movement.

Women-in-solidarity from included militant artists and broadcasters like Tina Monico Mitra, Cesar Drilon, Alfredo Lagman, Lorna Tolentino, Jaime Licauco, Alfredo Cuenco, Mona Magsaysay-Shiels, Shiela Coronel, Marra Lanot, Rachel Tabelin, Marilen Wag, Arlene Babst and Antonio Cuenco. Most of them were writing for Manila Bulletin, where editor was Letty J. Magsanoc. They all dressed in black for their protest march. WOMB was actually the women's desk of Concerned Artists of the Philippines, composed of Lino Brocka, Manuel Bernal, Nic Pangan, Boy Lacuba, Behn Cervantes, Marilou Diaz-Abaya, Brenda Fajardo and Roselle del Castillo (a Philippine Educational Theater Association). Ate Lucina had writers in film, "Since Stella L," in which many of us protested) became colonial. The visual artists, along (Arsima ng Bagsak), were concerned too, like social realist painters Hilton Deleonen, Jun Pabalan Sevilla, Bernabe Fernandez, Neil Doloricon, but also others like Bagsay Rosa.

Who could forget the songs of protest which have become history? What the writers wrote, and the dramatists staged, the musicians composed and sang. There was the popular "Isang Lahat" done by Joey Ayala and Carina Constantino, Joey Ayala (whose song on bombming of a village, "Ita, Filipinas," became a classic), Heber Bartolome ("Tahanan ni Ingkel"), Jess Santiago and Ayala Alda (Magsa-kill in love with protest singer Shaie Fernandez, Heber Bartolome with regular Maita.

'Letting Mercy'

About 1985, a small group in Womb began a militancy/calmness (concern) battle. It was called "Letting Mercy" by Cielo Villaluna and some prominent figures in the New Society became a source of politically charged debate. Behn Cervantes (referring to the then press secretary), Blas Ople (triple was then Labor minister), Eggy Bautista (a Marcos crony), Imelda "Ms. IRRM" (chief of the Integrated Reforestation Program) and supported Marcos', Maureen Velasco (sister), Judy B. Chambonjo (Judy Benitez, chief of human enforcement), Okay Romualdez (President's brother-in-law), Olivia Mole Asistor (wife [chief of airport security), Constantino Manotoc (Imelda's nephew), Commissioner Rose Bote, Paula Shah ("Paulit" was the Dictator's word used to outdo the shooting of Ninoy), Dongyang Santos, Bagsang Ignacio, Rolando Cuenco with Pilot Salas, Cissy Sison, Honorable no-laughing as Samson (MP), Ramon Mitra, Jr., Ramon Binamira, Pompong Tan, Honorable Guido Angelo Aquino Dee.

The symbols were able to keep their identity secret for years, even when they were a Catholic Mass (Media, and later a National Press Club session), for press freedom. The trophy from the Sri Midnight Palace was made by a group who used their acceptance speech: "The trouble with this country is that when you're serious, they think you're funny and when you're funny, they take you seriously."

The Timeworthy author of Los Kontrapas became so popular that Ninoy Aquino was written up as a CIA fascist on self-political satire as propaganda and became one of the UP Mass Communications department's required readings.

Splitting the Amen

After the Ninoy assassination, new groups appeared everyday. People were angry and trying to match the times. Everything Marcos did became an instant issue...from the laundering in Mindanao to denying that he had cirrhosis to cataracts. Once, on the way home from a rally, we left behind a passenger Samaritan—pastor in Pasig, "Ninoy, if ka nag-isa; Marcos, nag-isa ka na; Imelda, nahanse ka; Gobaan, nahahati ka. Sa, ang pangit mo!"

As a long time-survivor-activist is belong to Lorenzo Tañada's Anu (Justice for Aquino, Inc.

(continued from 12)

In Marcos' time, the woman's place was in the struggle, and never was there such a force!

STREET PLAY in front of US Embassy with CB Gamalinda as Imelda, Nikki Coseteng as a cronyand Odette Abcarian as Inang Bayan

WOMB chair Malou Gomez...circa 1982

MOVE de la Paz

LILIA Fabregas

KM Medina

MARIES: Francisco, Aprilfebap Joy Jayson Bonacua; Ruby Kintanar (MPA chief) and Gilda Fernando in maidenform circa Ka Pepe's Bonifacio, 1991

TECHIE Cayetano, Ada Marasigan, Mely Nicolas, Mary Concepcion Bautista, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Fe C. Arriola and Gilda Abcarian in one of the first meetings of Womb at the Heritage Gallery

A TYPICAL rally photo with Nicka and other activists, including a priest protesting human rights violations

Inno Sotto's take on Double 10

Compiled by Cleofe V. Moral

For the new Ayala Museum's first salvo after its October opening to the public, it is hosting Inno Sotto's haute couture show on Oct. 10. Just for fun, we asked the designer to complete 10 lists of 10 things about his show and about himself. Here's the outcome of that session.

10 things most people don't know about me

1. I once ran 34 road marathons.
2. A Japanese pal sold my fake Amorsolos to wealthy fans. Dapat ko yata'yon.
3. I attempted 11 yellows, different eyes and shapes. Nonsublimes... Ad a thousand.
4. I love Champagne! Veuve Clicquot. I enjoy drinking.
5. I like Coke. If I need take a beverage, it has to be Coke. If you pose it to a glass filled with a cocktail you have it go round, ahhh!
6. I love Chinese food (with the forked fork, not sticks).
7. I go to Mrs Advocate (Grand every day, usually at night, any church).
8. I love dark chocolate.
9. I love earth (grass on and concrete roads). When I get a daydreamed story, I like discovering new roads, dirt roads.
10. I always travel with candles. Mine are by Yankee Candles. When my candle comes out, it will leave candle (I have ja-maxoff soap, body lotion).

10 things people should know about my show

DESIGNER Inno Sotto is presenting a collection of over 10 women's clothes in an exclusive show at the Ayala Museum (to Oct. 9).

4. I'm considering a fragrance. It's called XM. "Xm" is a movement, an ideology. Like Inno-vention. It can also stand for Inno Sotto Monde. My fragrance is made in Grasse, France, by Givaudan. It took three years to complete the scent. The concept was bottled in early 2001. It took all back-back. Like my attire I thought the combo is timeless.
5. A supermodel there's talent. She's Emanuelle. She arrived midnight, after the color. She liked my apricot-silver that I wore on my "night" look.
6. I'm considering only natural fibers in the world as part of the campaign. It will run on TV and movie houses.
7. This is my first show in ten years. I will be showing a full-size collection of women's clothes.
8. The show is called "Around the World." Inno Sotto Fine Modern."
9. Indie business. I've come across five types of women: we are Indian women. One very feminine, romantic, hair-vintage motif. Then, sexy. Three, artistic, constantly reinventing her look, involved in the arts, theater. Fourth, one who is "bored," one who has no shape, either overweight or petite (skin or fat), member of the commercials, or an icon, and is either willingly or unwillingly trapped in the illusion of civilization. The fifth is a combination of all.
10. I shudder a bit as there's like for my show will have my daughter Ella as my official stylist. This show is very personal. It's emotional.
11. I'll have about 40 pieces models. Putting it together is hobby. Luxurious, but production design and concept are more sophisticated (I think).
12. It's going to have the iconic gallery of the Ayala Museum.
13. It's a celebration of fragrance and textiles.

10 things I enjoy watching

1. Woody Allen movies
2. Martin Scorsese movies
3. Standard Disney cartoons and Looney Tunes
4. Before, I drank, until about three years ago—just watching do those shows doing a makeover
5. Sports and tennis
6. Local TV commercials like "Yes Inang, anong pampaputi nakin?"
7. A real good two-hitter fight now, like Oscar de la Hoya, Fernando Vargas, Manny Pacquiao and Erik Morales. I'm Mayday-Pac fan since
8. Talent/reality shows
9. Basketball
10. BBC's "Road Talk"

10 fashion items every woman should have

1. White shirt
2. Black skirt
3. Khaki trousers
4. Blue jeans
5. Classic black pumps
6. Classic beige pumps
7. Practical flats, any height
8. Pearl earrings
9. Good watch
10. And a good man to provide all these

10 things I will never understand

1. Why people want a bit of 10
2. Why people have to act when it's public like I was to attend an event (Basketball) or perform (I hold billion ball, who has to who cheers it
3. Why people take fashion seriously, too seriously
4. Why people look for something original, then say it haven't any body else who looks like an original look every direct
5. Why people condemn beer when it's not a cult
6. Why people smoke
7. Why people show their boobs, just tattoos, multiple flesh bodies pierced
8. Why women and men wear suits, small other
9. Why we can't become more famous as a nation
10. Any kind of negative attitude

10 design heroes

1. Christian Dior (who I have very indirectly served in my career)
2. Pitoy Moreno was very supportive. He provided a space that kept eyes who previous creations of mine in my photos that I was starting out.
3. Oscar
4. Balenciaga
5. Charles James
6. Schiaparelli
7. Geoffrey Beene
8. St. Laurent
9. Yohji Yamamoto
10. Pat Kinsella

10 most DDG men

1. Johnny Depp, definitely!
2. Brad Pitt, of course. Young Antonio Banderas, as well.
3. Colin Farrell. (Bye, just love Danny ever, spare! Only suggestions: no lifting clothes! I like the rascal in Banderas.
4. George Clooney
5. Remember Tom Jones? As long as I stand by him he'll never stand together.
6. Michael Jordan, dude! I only had trouble I don't care!
7. James Blake (tennis player)
8. David Beckham—not yet sweet looked to good
9. Jet Li—the REAL
10. Yo Yo Ma—his cuddles

10 favorite places

4. My bed.
5. My work area. I still have my office. I can stay there for hours.
6. Paris ... I can [illegible] an apartment there) I order I feel at home in Paris.
7. New York, Italy, Spain.
8. Bedrooms.
9. Granny Cabinet. If it is really a good game between Warren and Lucky.
10. Some place exotic. No [illegible] I'm really not. I'm always home.
11. South America for reason of the wars. Forget the reasons, the food, and the men. They're gorgeous!
12. The markets, Sunday Dangan. I don't like to shop. But when I travel, I always make sure to be one day at weekend so I can go to the flea markets.
13. Mountains of Farming, Tyrol, Switzerland, Romania—when I have to buy anything for myself.

10 style icons

1. Spiderman
2. Tony Stark
3. Johnny Depp, very fashionable, wonderful, very Byron like
4. Jude Nicholson
5. Rudolf Nureyev, an individualistic artiste
6. Cary Grant, (his) had a style of his own
7. John Paul
8. Gianni Versace
9. Brothers of Brooklyn
10. Tim Dion

10 fantasies

1. A show in Paris again.
2. A show in New York.
3. To walk the red carpet. I mean that figuratively, for my movie to walk the red carpet, whatever the event, anywhere.
4. To have a home base.
5. One year off my work to travel extensively.
6. [illegible]
7. [illegible]
8. [illegible]
9. [illegible]
10. [illegible]

SIMPLICITY colors Lindsay Gago in Tina Paciquet's interpretation of modern design.

MARTINA Dessa Uy utilizes the basics of the Asian aesthetic with touches of modernity in a beautiful, homey and comfortable studio setting.

The Edge complements metropolitan lifestyles by drawing a delicate balance between style and functionality

Cutting-edge living

By Joan A. Jardines

TRUE vertical park residential developments in city neighborhoods. The Fort, Uptown and Rockwell, Makati, collectively known as The Edge—One McKinley Place, Fort Victor Towers and Metropolitan Towers—forms a haven in the hip, urban high life.

Developed by real-estate developer Philtown Inc. under its chair Joey Concepcion, The Edge complements metropolitan lifestyles by drawing a delicate balance between style and functionality—nothing too trendy that could border on the gimmicky, and nothing too practical that could lead to sterile boring.

One McKinley Place or The Fort is a 42-storey building at the heart of Fort Bonifacio, while the 28-story Fort Victor Towers, also at The Fort, is located at the corner of McKinley Road. Across Rockwell still sits the 30-storey Metropolitan Towers, which will include facilities like ballrooms and fitness centers, swimming pool, gym, etc.

The Edge's canvas of high-rise living finds expression in the designs of three of the country's most accomplished architects—architect and designer Ed Calma, and interior designers Tina Periquet and Martha Dessa Uy—which are on display at the Commercial Studio showroom of One McKinley Place.

"These are typical materials, those that you can find everywhere. But combination and design make it very elegant," Calma says of his modern take on a typical 30-sq-m, one-bedroom unit.

Shelter, more reasonable

For his first time to design for a model unit, Calma decided to open the kitchen area, choosing the shelter and more masculine dark combos of gunmetal over the typical wood or antiseptic white finish. He also used nautical knots to impart a sense of security to the conceived home space.

Depth is achieved by allowing the eye to sweep from the kitchen all the way to the dining area and living room. The centre of the room has suspended flowers above the dining table, adding character to an otherwise conventional dining area that's normally adorned with ordinary vases.

Lights are recessed against the wall and located at the sides for a warm, soft effect—making lunch or dinner all the more romantic.

Calma's preference for Brazilian pewter in his walls, with its geometric patterns of aluminum cloth subtly framing the composition, rounded out the walls into artwork similar to abstract painting.

"Venetian plaster absorbs moisture, so it also helps dehumidify the space," he says.

Calma is careful, too, about making functional look, well, too functional. An airy Philippine lizard motif is lazily seen against one wall, and is strategically located by the living room to be appreciated by guests. His shower looks like sculpture, a small relief of sorts that adds a touch of art to the mundane.

Refreshing and bubbly

"I'm very passionate. Every color has a way of affecting your mood. I know how they play with your senses," says Dessa Uy, who successfully put together a living room, bedroom, dining area, kitchen plus another unit divvied into a eight 37-sqm studio spaces. Conscious about her choice of colors, soft materials and rich textures gives her design a cozy feel. Dessa Uy's penchant for thinking big and small, vast and near, is not short without her part of her desire to put her personal stamp into her work.

"I tend it to be different because most of the units you see today are interconnected from," she says.

The restricted space forced her to work against the grain—with beautiful results. For instance, she used large objects that go all the way to the ceiling to create that small area-like feel, in fact, a tall, 9-ft ceiling. It does not create an illusion of space, but by using only one color, Dessa Uy created a sense of visible. The more the color, the wider the space becomes.

Dessa Uy designed a small table at the foot of the bed that can serve as a workable for, say, a laptop, or as a tray for a breakfast in bed. A bit of long motion is still to take to make the pieces multifunctional.

In touch with earth

Working on the two-bedroom unit, Periquet had the advantage of having three expanses on her model unit. All two-bedrooms occupy the corners, so the maximum the use of three windows that flooded natural light into the room. Her colors are neutral, and reveal a lot shown material, especially for condo units.

"Condos are always high up there. Wood brings nature up to you and puts you back in touch with earth," Periquet says. She also used natural stones such as granite and limestone, as its coolness would have seemed to the ground despite the altitude.

Her design is airy and spacious, with one area seamlessly flowing into the next. In the bedroom, platform beds are made to look like they're part of the architecture—a quiet play on spaces that works well by minimizing the clutter and maximizing the space.

To achieve a sense of intimacy, Periquet lowered the ceiling in the dining area. It also served as a centering device, so balance and fashionable depth (the slight inequality of the unit's structure). The lighting, though, is pooled at the ceiling, which appears to take it and makes it feel higher than it actually is.

In one bathroom, two mirrors face each other, achieving infinite reflections and blurring away one's perception of space. "The whole point is to make the small space look big," she says.

E-mail the author at jjardines@philstar.com.ph

ID Calma adds a touch of art into the mundane in the 30-sq-m one-bedroom unit, using compartmentalization in his main design scheme.

Haribon takes wings

SEEING GREEN

Maria Goodwill Nayda

THE HARIBON Foundation has been ultra-active lately, thanks in part to its energetic officers, and to part to its creative and surrounds rooms. Haribon started in 1972 as a bird-watchers society composed mainly of bird lovers from Forbes Park.

In time, it became a foundation, espousing the conservation from birds to other forms of wildlife. It is now a non-government organization (NGO) focusing on conservation, wherever it is needed in the country by logo is "Protecting Nature, Conserving Life."

Haribon has many awards, local and international, for some of its projects, including a book, "Key Conservation Sites in the Philippines," which was done in collaboration with the Bird Life International Directory of Important Bird Areas.

Another project

Today, it is in the middle of yet another project, this time to raise public awareness on the need to conserve the country's wealth—our natural resources. It has been doing this in various ways as one of its foundation but, this time, is making a unique way to reach more people in a shorter time—via television spots.

In the campaign "Kapuso para sa Kalikasan," Haribon has signed a partnership with GMA-7. The network will provide airtime for messages, stories and reports initiated by the foundation. Details of the arrangement will be announced later.

Haribon has no doubts this will boost significantly its efforts to generate widespread public awareness of the rich biodiversity. "We cannot overemphasize the essential role of mass media in providing the public with vital information about the environment," said Haribon executive director Anabelle Plantilla. "GMA-7's extensive reach across the country will be a crucial factor in advancing our cause...to give a national push for biodiversity conservation."

On behalf of the network, GMA president Gilda Ilusorio and CEO Felipe Gozon affirmed: "We are fully supportive of projects that directly benefit the environment and are anxious to take every opportunity to advocate concerns related to it," mentioning calamities, like floods that occur because of degraded forests and a lack of environmental concern.

A market study commissioned by Haribon in 2003 placed the baseline for total awareness about Philippine biodiversity at only 11 percent. After an extensive media campaign, said Plantilla, the figure rose to 22 percent in 2002, an impressive hundredfold increase attributed to the influence of media. The figures are bound to soar even higher, with the launch of "Kapuso para sa Kalikasan."

Signatories of the environmental adherence were John Gokongwei, Jr. and Robert King, both board members of Haribon Foundation; and GMA-7's Felipe L. Gozon, president, and Butch E. Raquel, vice president for public relations.

Stickers of birds

Collectors and bird lovers will be interested to know that Haribon has some out with the first series of stickers with pictures of Philippine birds ("Mga Ibong Pinoy"), some endemic, many threatened. They are being sold in mini-books, though supply is limited.

A mini contains 12 stickers, each about 2 sq in, of different birds. These include the Whiskered Pitta found only in Luzon, Philippine eagle and Philippine cockatoo, both found only in the country; Mindoro pygmy-pheasant; and Whitcher's tarsier. Each mini, which costs P35, is available at the Haribon office, 4/F PJI Garcia Tower, 140 Kalayaan Ave., QC, tel. 4020074.

Haribon Cup

The Haribon Foundation, which sponsors sports events to raise awareness of the environment and funds for its causes, announced the holding of the first Haribon Badminton Cup this October. Other events it organized recently were the Wild Mother Adventure Race that brought participants around parks and green and historic spots in Manila, and the First Metro Manila Bike Rally, which required that participating bikers have bird shapes.

Recognizing the popularity of badminton, Haribon sees the event as another venue to generate public awareness of the wealth of our natural resources.

PICTURES of Philippine birds are featured on these 2"x 2" stickers, available at the Haribon Foundation office. A mini contains 12 stickers.

THE NEW, state-of-the-art Ayala Museum is three times larger than the old one, with about half of its 6,000-sq.m space allocated for major exhibits.

Greenbelt adds a cultural and aesthetic touchstone to its many attractions with the makeover and reopening of the Ayala Museum

Museum reloaded

DON JAIME Zobel De Ayala, chair of the Ayala Foundation which oversees the museum, says, "The Ayala Museum is a gift to the Filipino people."

By Gibbs Cadiz

CAN malls be museum goers? Jaime Zobel de Ayala thinks it's possible. "A museum has a place in a pop world," he says.

Particularly when the museum itself is the crowning part of the mall—a jarring but visionary concept that now finds gleaming expression in the newly refurbished Ayala Museum, which occupies pride of place in the prime commercial destination that is Greenbelt 4.

The old Ayala Museum on Makati Avenue, designed by the late National Artist Leandro Locsin, has given way to a striking four-story structure that boasts granite, glass, wood, concrete and steel, with serene Zen gardens at the back and a graceful fountain in front.

"It's like an island in the middle of this busy highway," says Ricky Cuaderno-Jose, head of the Ayala Foundation, which oversees the museum.

Part of everyday life

The highway, of course, is the lucky mall's model of Greenbelt and its surrounding commercial environs.

Over 200,000 people are said to pass by the De La Rosa and Ayala loading to the Greenbelt complex every day. Here, they dine, shop, play games, hang out, watch a movie and generally sustain the motto that mall-going is the sound of the 21st century.

But if Nora Gapuz-Jose Rizal, Ayala Museum director, would have her way going to a museum should be as easy and habitual as stopping for a restaurant or cinema any time.

"We want the museum to be part of everyday life. We'd like to cultivate a museum-going tradition in this country such as what we find overseas, that's why it's located right in the heart of Greenbelt, which is very accessible to everyone," she says. "If we only get a thousand of the 200,000 mall-goers every day we'd be happy."

Gauging by the crowds that already have a huge challenge for museums to be historical by forgetful, memory-challenged country. Many people see these places as gigantic flat galleries, dusk, musty jars with ancient, creepy displays and sending even more pedantic caretakers.

They're in for a surprise at the Ayala Museum. The glass tower, which houses the museum's contemporary operations such as the mall, shop, classrooms and offices, is bright and airy, passive—a wave of quiet modern elegance bathed in natural light.

A three-dimensional glass wall runs parallel to the walkway leading to the mall, making part of the museum interiors visible to passersby. These glass walls will hold temporary objects from the exhibits to attract mall-goers to the lobby and climb out the museum's many treasures.

The core of those treasures, housed in the museum's windowless, climate-controlled

LIGHT 'N' EASY. Three-dimensional glass walls allow natural light to come in and give mall-goers a peek into part of the museum's interiors.

JUAN LUNA, Untitled (Woman with Mandolin), 1889—part of the museum's permanent collection

FERNANDO Amorsolo, Untitled (Palay maidens), 1930

PLARIDEL/PA Concepcion (Immaculate Conception) image in ivory

FIETA in ivory, from the museum's forthcoming exhibit of Philippine ivory art from the 17th-19th centuries

promise rising. Among the breathtaking permanent collections: the popular dioramas depicting 40 high points in Philippine history, now enhanced with a multimedia "bring-the-ruins" experience on the martial-law years and the People Power revolution; paintings by Juan Luna (including the exquisite "Woman with Mantón"), Fernando Amorsolo and Fernando Zobel; and various rare archeological, ethnographic and numismatic objects accumulated over many years by the Ayala family and subsidiary units such as the Bank of the Philippine Islands.

Design duality

The museum's design duality is deliberate. "There's a fine line between developing your audience and maintaining your integrity as a museum and as a place of scholarship," says Boksi.

Thus, while the first and second floors of the museum are dedicated to drawing people in by hosting fun-acts, lectures, pocket performances and other interactive, family-oriented activities, the third and fourth floors are designed as sanctuaries for the finer, serious

BUSINESS C7

DIORAMA depicting the martial law revolution against Spain, one of 60 such dioramas now restored and enhanced with a multimedia presentation on the overhead four years until the Edsa revolution.

Museum reloaded

From page C6

lovers short and solitary.

"You have dedicated students who want to walk into a room and feel the silence and be able to admire a painting in other works of art, and for that you don't want a thousand kids running all over," says Zobel. "So there's going to be some fee-based thing, including the really serious, concerned, local faculty or from abroad who can go take a gallery and admire Philippine art."

And while it used to focus on Philippine history, arts and culture, now the museum seeks to situate these elements within a global context, by making itself a hub of exchange and collaboration with overseas institutions.

"The old museum was more like a family affair," explains Zobel. "We didn't really have a fixed direction at the time. We had a little bit of this, a bit bit of that."

With its refurbishment, the new museum is redefining itself as a crux of international call and exchange by highlighting Philippine art and artists, and showcasing Philippe works created by museums and collectors around the world.

In November, the museum is also bringing back, for the first time, the Philippine collection of the Singapore Art Museum consisting of select paintings and sculptures that chronicle nearly 100 years of Philippine art, from a 1902 Fabian de la Rosa portrait of Rizal to a 2004 work by Roberto Chabet.

"When you walk out of the exhibition of a dream we've had for over 20 years," says Zobel.

"The new Ayala Museum is a gift to the Filipino people—the high point of Ayala Corporation's 176th anniversary this year," he adds. "It chronicles the journey of our people and it builds tremendously on its rich past and it continuously evolving present. As Filipinos, we owe it to ourselves to appreciate the value of our heritage."

Call the Ayala Museum at 757-7117 to 20.

E-mail the author at gaeta@inquirer.com.ph

FERNANDO Zobel, Untitled (Maidens beside fruit trees), 1913 pastel. Among the museum's strengths is its collection of fine art by Filipino masters, Juan Luna, Fernando Amorsolo and Fernando Zobel which can be viewed in the exhibit "Pioneers of Philippine Art" (left).

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PETRON chair Nicasio Alcantara, Rep. Abdullah Dimaporo, Napoleon Alvarez, Liria Zobel, Saudi Ambassador Mohammed Ameen Wali and Petron president Khalid Al-Siddiqah

ANTIPHO Aurora, artist Lui Medina and Ronnie Diaz at Medina's exhibit

HENRY Co, president of Ford Phils., Tom Zou, chair of Shangri-La Corp. and US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone at the American Roadside Architecture exhibit

Happy time for art lovers

CATCHING up with art exhibits—chronologically how else?—we relished Manny Baldemor's sun-shiny colors that would brighten up any wall. He's done a wonderful series of landscapes of different countries he's seen. His latest stolen in Portugal was exhibited at the Art Space, Galerie Y of Glorietta 4.

Obligada Portugal had Portuguese ambassador Joao Gaetano Da Silva doing the honors for Manny's exquisite works of art.

Three more non-UN ambassador Francis Ricciardone (another American Roadside Architecture at the Grand Atrium of Shangri-La Plaza, an exhibit of the photo collection of John Margolies consisting of a series of images of roadside buildings (before the days of freeways) with their huge signs to encourage motorists to stop.

Interstate highways replaced the old roads and most of the curious structures have now disappeared. Sponsored by Ford Phils., Shangri-La Plaza and 3M, the photo event

DIPLOMATIC SHEBEL

By Amigo

Extended to 8M Cebu and 3M Davao.

Petron art competition

Among the moment-big guests of art clubs, as you know, is Petron Corp. This year they had Art Petron 6, a national student art competition, both oil paintings and photographs are exhibited at the lobby of the elegant Petron Plaza. On hand for the opening were their Nicasio Alcantara and Khalid E. Al-Siddiqah, president and CEO, with National Artist Bibby Alvarez, Lirazle Zobel, Saudi Arabian Ambassador Mohammed Ameen Wali and Rep. Abdullah Dimaporo to open the brush. From a total of 104 entries nationwide, 24 winners were chosen. Grand prize winners received cash ranging from P 15,000-P35,000, and a trophy designed by no less than Alvarez.

Still on the subject of exhibits, there's a bright young star in the horizon named Lui Medina, who had her first one-woman exhibit, "Pinoy Diaw" at the Finale Art Gallery featuring photography and painting. Medina dealt with essentially everyday objects viewed from distorted off centre angles. The element of voyeurism is emphasized since the subjects were largely unaware when they were photographed. The photos are dark with a rather claustrophobic effect. Here's to the future.

Lunch with culture VIPs

For a change of pace, we had a splendid lunch at Mexican Ambassador Enrique Hubbard's residence with newly designated Presidential Adviser on Culture Cecile Alvarez, National Artist Napoleon Abueva, who knows Mexican food having been introduced to it in his college days in Arizona, Ivonne's Belinda Canseco and Philippine Star's brightest star, Rosalinda Orosa.

Ambassador Hubbard announced a Mexican delegation would be here Oct. 12-14 to sign the Bicentennial Agreement between the cities of San Pedro Garza Garcia and Makati.

HELLO Yobbi, Mexican Ambassador Enrique Hubbard, Rosalinda Orosa, National Artist Analiza Roces, Belinda Canseco, Cecile Alvarez

On Nov. 21 Minister pinoir Alberto Cinpericio inchairs of the Hotel Inter Continental.

There was a marvelous Celebration Memories of Mexico manor at the Ayala Regency ballroom of the same Tita Rita bar. Guest chefs Francisco Javier Ahe Cid and Candita Brigida Gonzalez from the Hyatt event in Cancun presented Mole Poblano for the first time in Manila, a shadow dish around in abundance.

Silver anniversary

At the ball celebrating the 25th anniversary of Mother's Manual, there was a stash of bejeweled notables at the MH Tent in the Fort, among them chair Cecile Zipper, president Jody Lim, Monina Blardony, Blynda Bautista and Joann Bodegon, to name a few. There were all kinds of celebrities from various eras: President Fredelin Ordon to Justice Rene Corona to Sen Bernie dancing the Bigodon, to Linda Lacsin with husband, Rep. Speaker Lacsin to son, and even ex-Malabe Joe Shot Chua, who visited the show.

For those who are interested and, of course, you are legion, the ladies looked smashing in their armor as they danced the Bigodon de Ilocos, choreographed by Bading Elorian. It prompted someone to remark that perhaps we ought to adapt it for all long-gown occasions.

Outstanding in a brown orange Rajo Jesin Valera (ok) off on the hint I saw was Marlou Prieto Lerma. Now how many ladies can get away with that shade and how many ladies would think of using chocolate brown?